

John Major



MICHAEL JACKSON

Paying the price of tinseltown fame

How stars suppress scandal, page 15



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THE TIMES



No. 64,862

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26 1994

'Laid-back' Clarke disturbs Tories

Major takes up cudgels in taxes row

By Philip Webster
POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major yesterday launched a counter-offensive in the battle over tax, after senior ministers and MPs criticised Kenneth Clarke's response to the wave of attacks over the increases due in April.

While voicing regret at the need to raise taxes, the Prime Minister robustly declared that they were required now to help the Government to achieve long-term economic growth. He was backed up by Michael Portillo, who promised the Commons that firm decisions now would provide the basis for longer-term prosperity, while Labour would spend, borrow and tax more "come rain or shine".

The Government decided to go on the attack after strong complaints from senior Tory MPs that the Treasury had underestimated the scale of public reaction to the dis-

■ Tories dismayed by Labour's "free run" in the row over tax will be relieved by John Major's fightback and at the avoidance of a public sector pay battle

sure in *The Times* that people paid a smaller proportion of their income in tax under the last Labour government than they do now, and that the Chancellor had been too "laid-back" in his reaction to it. His initial reaction to *The Times* study was that it was "piffle".

Some Conservative MPs told the whips that they would be crushed in the May and June polls unless action was taken, and Mr Major, Richard Ryder, the chief whip, and Sir Norman Fowler, the party chairman, agreed on Monday that a more aggressive stance was required. Then yesterday morning, a meeting of Treasury ministers chaired by Mr Clarke agreed that they had

failed to get their case across and that they must hit back by displaying "the improvement in living standards".

Some Tory MPs believe that Downing Street is irritated with the Chancellor's failure to repulse the Labour attack. Mr Clarke's friends say that the criticism being levelled at him comes from "right-wingers" who would be happy to see his leadership ambitions dented.

In a sign of the new stance, Tory officials last night issued a list of spending pledges allegedly made by Labour since the election. These will be further briefings on improvements in living standards.

By last night, Mr Major appeared to have raised the spirits of Tory MPs, who were also relieved that the Government had indicated it would avoid confrontation over public sector pay.

The Prime Minister launched his counter-attack in response to Margaret Beckett, Labour's deputy leader, who accused him of presiding over the "biggest tax hike in British history". Mr Major denied Mrs Beckett's charge of deception at the general election. He then spent the rest of the evening replying to her. "Events have forced us to raise taxes," he said. "But it is necessary to raise taxes to make sure that we cut the borrowing requirement and provide the opportunity for sustained growth with low inflation over the medium term. I believe that we have to take the decision that will safeguard the economy." The Conservatives had not wished to raise taxes in 1981, but that had led to years of sustained growth "and I strongly suspect the Budgets of 1993 will do precisely the same".

Mr Portillo later weighed in saying: "By taking steps now to bring our public finances into balance, we have the prospect of lower taxes in years to come." Without firm action now, the Government would have had to raise taxes every year just to pay the interest on its overdraft.

Matthew Parris, page 2
Simon Jenkins and Peter Brooke, page 16

Doubts linger on school religion

By John O'Leary and Ben Preston

MINISTERS tried to quell the growing row over religious education yesterday with a guarantee that new guidelines would be voluntary and left to local discretion.

The first draft syllabuses attracted criticism from evangelical Christians, concerned at the requirement to cover Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism by the age of 16. Religious minorities were equally worried that at least half the lessons would be devoted to Christianity.

Baroness Blatch, the Education Minister, said that there would be no change to the legal requirement for religious education to reflect the predominantly Christian traditions of Britain.

But traditionalists threatened to revive the argument they lost within the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority over a proposal that pupils should spend 87.5 per cent of their RE time studying Christianity between the ages of seven and 11.

Members of the General Synod, known as *The Times* Group who wrote to the

newspaper demanding action to halt the decline of RE, said that the syllabuses would fail to raise standards. Too much emphasis was being placed on non-Christian faiths, said Philip Gore, the co-chairman. Trevor Cooling, of the Evangelical Alliance Education Coalition, said: "The battles about the balance between various religions and how many religions children should learn at each age are still ongoing."

The Church Society, the senior evangelical body within the Church of England, said it was misguided to require primary schools to teach two non-Christian faiths. The Rev David Streater, its director, said: "We agree with the call for a minimum of 50 per cent to be devoted to Christianity within RE, but we believe that for the vast majority of schools, the national models should indicate that at least 75 per cent is appropriate."

Jan Ainsworth, the Church of England delegate at the launch in London, said the Church believed that most schools should devote two-thirds of religious education to teaching Christianity. Representatives of minority faiths stood by their claim that non-Christian study could be reduced to an afterthought. Dilip Kadodwala, the Hindu delegate, said that his children had asked why their religion could no longer be discussed in school.

Nigel de Grandy, general secretary of the 207,000-strong National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, accused the Government of interfering.

Multi-faith lessons, page 6
Edward Norman, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Actress taken to hospital in shock amid court pandemonium



Gillian Taylor, strapped into a wheelchair, being helped from court yesterday

EastEnders star collapses after £1.2m libel loss

By Michael Horsnell

GILLIAN Taylor, the television soap star, and her fiancé faced the threat of financial ruin last night after losing their £500,000 libel action over a newspaper story that they took part in a sex romp on the A1.

Miss Taylor, a star of the BBC's *EastEnders*, collapsed and was taken to hospital strapped to a wheelchair amid pandemonium at the High Court in London after a jury accepted police allegations published in *The Sun* that they were caught indulging in oral sex. Members of her family shouted abuse at the court and journalists at the end of the two-week hearing which had unrelentingly exposed the couple's personal lives.

Miss Taylor, 38, who plays the part of cab-owner Kathy Beale in the series, and her fiancé Geoffrey Knights, 39, were overcome as the jury returned a majority verdict after deliberations lasting more than five hours. Miss Taylor, who had appeared to be hyperventilating after being carried out of court 13 by her fiancé, was released from St Bartholomew's Hospital after treatment for shock in the accident and emergency department.

In an extraordinary sequence of events after the jury returned its verdict, Mr Knights held his fiancée and said: "It's all right. It's all right." But she said: "No!" Hysterical screams from her family were heard from the first-floor balcony on which Miss Taylor lay, before her sister Janice Gregory cried out: "Get an ambulance, get an ambulance, she can't breathe! She is going to die!" Further cries of alarm followed as Miss Taylor rose to her feet

Tough scene 3
Libel casino 33

light of the verdict." Miss Taylor is still on leave from the series which she took to pursue the court case and is not due back on set until next week.

The jury threw out the couple's claim that the couple stopped their *Range Rover* on a slip road of the A1 near Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, on June 17, 1992 for Mr Knights to be sick during an attack of pancreatitis on their way home from a day of heavy drinking at Royal Ascot.

It also rejected their claims that Mr Knights had loosened his trousers to relieve the pain and that Miss Taylor leant over to place her hand on his stomach out of concern.

The couple face legal costs Continued on page 2, col 5

Whitbread awarded to woman

JOAN Brady, a little-known American novelist who lives in Totnes, Devon, was the surprise winner of the 1993 Whitbread Book of the Year Award last night. She is the first woman to win the £23,000 prize in its 12-year history.

Ms Brady's work, *Theory of War*, is based on the life story of her grandfather, who was sold to a Mid-Western farmer for \$15 when he was four. The novel took two years to write.

Resident in England since 1965, Ms Brady, 53, did not meet her grandfather, who died before she was born.

One of the Whitbread judges, David Melfor, MP, said: "This is an enormously impressive piece of work by a writer who deserves to be better known."

Hope for economy smiles on Clinton

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BESET by scandal but buoyed by high opinion poll ratings, President Clinton went into battle last night in an attempt to persuade Americans of the virtue of his health care and anti-crime programmes. On the eve of his State of the Union speech, a *Washington Post* survey showed 60 per cent viewed Mr Clinton favourably. Damage from the Whitewater affair and Mr Clinton's bungled search for a new Defence Secretary has been more than offset by a surge in economic optimism.

In a sharp reversal of last year's figures, 44 per cent said the economy was improving and only 18 per cent said it was deteriorating. Mr Clinton claimed the credit for this economic recovery and sought to rally dwindling support for his next big battle—a massive restructuring of the health

care system so all Americans have guaranteed coverage.

Violent crime is the top concern among Americans and Mr Clinton was expected to use his address to support mandatory life sentences for three-time violent offenders. He also demanded more police and prisons in an attempt to outflank the Republicans on their own ground in the run-up to November's congressional elections.

Mr Clinton's rushed nomination of William Perry as Defence Secretary on Monday may have rebounded on him. Praise for the new nominee was tempered by questions about what the President had achieved by sacking Les Aspin for his failure to provide clear leadership, only to promote Mr Aspin's little-known deputy after three other candidates had turned the job down.

Tourists to be wooed with a little Essex appeal

By Emma Wilkins

ESSEX, famous for its hot hatchbacks, furry dice and, of course, those girls, is seeking a new image. Despite its epoch-making traditions from Boudicca's rampage through Colchester to more recent Conservative election victories, Essex is failing to attract overseas visitors.

In an attempt to shunt off its "traumatic and unfair" image, the Essex Tourist Association has launched a competition to find a new label for the county

along the lines of the Lake District, the Cotswolds or The Heart of England. "We've got Dick Turpin's birthplace, Constable country and Lovejoy is filmed here," Mr Alan Goldsmith, the association's vice-chairman, said yesterday. "So many tourists arrive here at Stansted airport, Harwich and the other ports, but they are not stopping. We're in an international battle to win the tourists and if we're not switched on they'll go somewhere else."

The association, which has a com-

mittee of 14 hoteliers, restaurateurs and coach operators, was formed two months ago with funding from Essex County Council and decided to launch the competition.

Mr Goldsmith, who owns his own tourist attraction, a reconstructed Norman village in Stansted, said: "Essex has not got the name we deserve. Essex girls are just as fashionable and sophisticated as any others in the country and it is tragic and unfair that we have got a name which has stuck."

Simon Heffer, deputy editor of *The*

Spectator, whose article three years ago confirmed the existence of Essex Man, was not impressed. "I live in Essex and I don't like the idea of more tourists," he said. "I want to keep it reasonably quiet. The demise of this scheme cannot come quickly enough."

Teresa Gorman, MP for Billericay, said: "We should stick up for the name Essex, not try to wriggle out of it. Essex is what keeps the Tory party in power and we are proud of it."

Libby Purves, page 14

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Through a shining gateway to Portillo's Spanish roots

In mid-grey suit, shining white cuffs and a restrained silk tie, Michael Portillo yesterday addressed the Commons not as one of the lads mucking in with the mob, but as a young flight lieutenant who has distinguished himself early in battle, and come back to talk to senior boys in his old school.

In civvies for the afternoon, he had laid aside his flying kit for a morale-boosting visit at a difficult time in the war. His complexion was fresh, his eyes bright, his brown hair — a look-as though he had just doffed his airman's leather helmet after four hours in a Spitfire over Germany. He looked earnest and brave.

Seated next to him — crumpled, jaded, trapped in a desk job with seniority but little leeway — sat house-master, Kenneth Clarke. Clarke applauded with the others, to encourage the boys. But was he suppressing a certain internal cynicism? Easy enough, thought Mr Portillo, for these young dare-devils to impress.

He did impress. Michael Denzil Xavier Portillo. Even the name alone has a trace of exoticism. Which of us can boast an X among our initials? Careful though he was, speaking of the problems of the Prime Minister of Spain, to mispronounce Gonzales in the English way — his ancestors turning in their graves —



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

you could not forget that Portillo was virtually, but not quite, English.

It struck me that it did no harm to Alberto Fujimori. The first son of a Japanese emigrant ever to rule a country outside Japan was asked at a press conference, during his ascent to the presidency of Peru, whether he considered himself Peruvian. Fujimori smiled. He felt as Peruvian as anyone in the room, he said ... "but," (pointing to the corner of one oriental eye) "these eyes may help."

Except that Portillo belongs not in the presidential palace in Lima, but in the mountains, captaining the *Sendero Luminoso* ("Shining Path") rebels. Their methods, are murderous but their message sounds clean.

Watching Portillo speak yesterday, I observed a number of characteristic dispatch box poses, subliminally shrewdly selected. He rarely hunches or buries his face. His hand movements are open: clearly and boldly stated. Not to align tax-receipts

with spending, he said, would be "ethically indefensible" — cutting the air horizontally with a straightened palm. Kenneth Clarke watched with one arm protecting his chest and a hand over his mouth.

"It was a year of shame!" (Portillo was describing the Labour Party's last year of office). He chopped both fists, symmetrically down, one onto each inside corner of the dispatch box. "Without our efforts to contain public spending, the tax rises we need would be much higher," he lectured, pointing at the book of figures beside him with the worried, intense frown of a sixth-form debater, who has become much exercised by the problems of

world population growth. The frown has a sort of intensity, a troubled probity. He lifts his head: "At a time when Government is borrowing at the rate of a thousand million pounds per week, what serious politician could contemplate ...?"

The Chief Secretary holds out his arms, palms open and flat, reminding me of the Spanish Communist Party's most effective election poster of recent years: a rough, open-faced labourer with his arms exactly thus, and the slogan "Mis manos — mi capital" ("My hands — my capital").

Portillo Luminoso. The Shining Gateway. To those in search of simplicities, it has an appeal.

Major heads off public sector pay confrontation

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SOME 1.4 million public servants were heading for an inflation-busting 3 per cent pay rise last night after John Major drew back swiftly from confrontation over the reports of the six independent review bodies.

Amid media speculation that the Government was on a collision course with groups such as doctors and nurses who command widespread public sympathy, the Prime Minister immediately let it be known that he did not envisage difficulties in meeting the review body recommendations.

"This is not the great hurdle some people are trying to make out," a senior Downing Street official said.

Officials said Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, had repeatedly made it clear that he had frozen the public-sector pay bill rather than impose a freeze on individual pay settlements. In addition, the spending limits for public bodies for the coming year required their managers to make efficiency savings of at least 2 per cent.

The officials indicated that the Government would allow money saved in this way to be channelled into funding pay awards.

The implication behind their remarks was that the review bodies — covering doctors, dentists, nurses, teachers, the armed forces, senior judges, civil servants and paramedics — have heeded the Government's warnings about the dire state of the nation's finances and recommended increases of about 3 per cent. This is the kind of

level that could be met from efficiency gains.

Mr Major has so far received the reports of the doctors' and dentists' review body and the one covering nurses. The other four are due later this week. A formal Government response is expected in a week or two.

However, some right-wing MPs fear that the efficiency savings formula is a fudge masking yet another retreat under fire which risks breaches of the Whitehall spending limits in future years and yet more tax increases. They will be worried whether the efficiency savings are genuine or whether departments will simply be moving money out of front-line services to cover higher pay costs.

Mr Major's swift intervention appeared to spike the guns of union leaders threatening a public-sector backlash unless the review body recommendations were honoured.

John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, warned that an "explosive cocktail" was brewing, made up of a pay freeze, tax rises and growing inflation, expected to touch 3.5 per cent this year.

Unison, Britain's biggest union, left ministers in no doubt of the risks of ignoring the review bodies. Rodney Bickerstaffe, associate general secretary, said: "The Government must practise basic decency and honour the recommendations. Any undue pressure or interference by members would be a bitter betrayal of the review bodies' key role in keeping industrial stability."



Janet and Steven Sheppard at home in Bristol yesterday with their daughters Lana, 12, and Victoria, 7

Shocked wife tells of CSA blunder

By BILL FROST

A WOMAN disclosed yesterday how a blunder by the Child Support Agency almost wrecked her 13-year marriage.

A letter from the agency had wrongly claimed that her husband had fathered a child by another woman three years after the couple's wedding. Janet Sheppard said she had been devastated by the false allegation against her husband Steven.

Mrs Sheppard spoke as demonstrators gathered outside the London home of Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, to protest about the agency's methods in tracking down absent fathers. Nina Lopez-Jones, a spokeswoman, said many women feared har-

assment from their former partners or simply did not want any contact with them. "Women who are claiming benefit are not being told that they do not have to sign authorisation, to claim from their ex-partners," she added.

The agency was defended by Mr Lilley in a speech to the American Chamber of Commerce. "There's been a lot of criticism and abuse, but I would remind you of one fact — in 96 per cent of the cases that have been pursued by the agency so far, the mother and child are dependent on benefit through generally the father, has a reasonable income."

Mr Lilley told his London audience that there were 1.3 million lone parents in Britain and one million of them were

dependent on benefits. Three out of four of those did not receive a single penny in maintenance from the absent parent. We believe in the first instance parents are responsible for their children. The taxpayer should only come in where the parents don't have the resources to support them."

Earlier, Mrs Sheppard, from Bristol, told of her anger and distress after opening a letter from the agency. She read that her husband had a ten-year-old daughter by someone else. "As he walked through the door I was ready to kill him. One minute I was screaming and shouting, then I was crying and then I didn't know what to do," she said. After four hours of frantic

phone calls by Mr Sheppard, the agency, which has recently introduced a performance-related pay scheme for its staff, confirmed that a mistake had been made.

Mr Sheppard, 38, who works in Bristol Fruit Market, said: "I was just stunned — I had never heard of the woman. I knew I hadn't done anything wrong but I had to convince my wife."

A CSA spokesman said: "We make very few genuine mistakes, but this was clearly one of them. We apologise for any distress and embarrassment caused."

Mrs Sheppard remained unmollified. "I'm so angry. If you were that incompetent in any other job then you would have got the sack."

Hurd admits aid bid by Malaysia

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOUGLAS Hurd admitted last night that the Malaysian government asked for foreign aid from Britain during discussions on defence sales.

The Foreign Secretary said that when Malaysian ministers met Lord Younger of Prestwick, who was then Defence Secretary, to discuss orders, they raised the issue of receiving overseas aid.

Mr Hurd's admission fuelled allegations that £234 million of aid for an uneconomic Malaysian dam was linked to lucrative defence orders. Senior Labour MPs said the admission confirmed their claims of an understanding between the governments that British aid would lead to some £1 billion of defence contracts.

Mr Hurd, replying to a parliamentary question from John Cunningham, Labour's shadow Foreign Secretary, said the aid programme was not linked to arms sales, which is illegal under Britain's overseas aid laws. However, he said the issue of aid was raised when Lord Younger visited Kuala Lumpur in March 1988.

A protocol signed by Lord Younger outlining Malaysia's "intention to buy defence equipment from the UK" included a reference to "aid in support of non-military aspects under this programme". On his return to London, Lord Younger consulted senior ministers before telling the Malaysian finance minister aid could not be linked to arms sales.

Dr Cunningham said confirmation that the issue of aid was raised "is further strong evidence that, to ensure that

Britain won defence contracts, ministers promised to give aid to Malaysia". He accused ministers of making Lord Younger the scapegoat and said the admission strengthened the case for a Commons enquiry into the background to the Pergau dam project.

Today the Foreign Affairs Select Committee will discuss whether to hold an enquiry on the project and the issue of aid and trade. Tory MPs this



Younger: signed "aid and trade" protocol

week voiced disquiet over the Government's refusal to publish documents on the aid deal and details of a senior civil servant's objections.

Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the overseas development minister, will bear the brunt of questions from MPs but Mr Hurd faces calls to make public dissenting documents sent to ministers by Sir Tim Lankaster, permanent secretary to the Overseas Development Administration.

Actress collapses after libel case

Continued from page 1

unofficially estimated at up to £500,000 incurred by News Group Newspapers, publishers of *The Sun*, and the Metropolitan Police, which was represented as a third party in the hearing, as well as their own.

It will be several months before the final figure for costs is approved by the court. But interest is payable on that sum. After that, if the costs are not paid within a reasonable time, *The Sun* can enforce payment of the sum as a debt, if necessary through orders for seizure of assets or through bankruptcy proceedings.

The costs are all the higher because the police were joined as defendants by *The Sun*. But Miss Taylorford and Mr Knights have no redress against that. One libel lawyer said: "That was perfectly reasonable — it was *The Sun* saying 'you are going for the wrong person. The information was supplied by the police.'"

The breakdown is likely to be about £200,000 costs for the plaintiffs and at least £150,000 each for the newspaper and the police.

Mr Knights, a business consultant and "paper millionaire" who has sold his £80,000 Ferrari Testarossa to meet initial costs, may have to sell his £500,000 six-bedroom home near Epping, Essex, which he lets to tenants, to pay the bill.

The couple, who live with their two-year-old daughter Jessica in Highbury, north London, had sued the newspaper for repeating the police allegation that they were caught red-handed by Police Constable Terence Talbot. They claimed that he had

misconstrued events. The officer denied having made an "honest mistake" and then lying to save himself from becoming a "laughing-stock" among his colleagues because he had summoned assistance when Mr Knights became aggressive.

Mr Knights said he was too ill and drunk to understand the significance of the caution admitting the indecency of offence which he later signed.

Daniel Taylor, solicitor for *The Sun*, said after the verdict: "Today's decision represents a striking victory for *The Sun* and a complete vindication of all the police officers involved in the case." Tom Crone, legal manager of the newspaper's publisher, News Group Newspapers, said: "It is not just a victory for *The Sun* but for common sense and justice. The jury was not prepared to accept that four police officers were lying under oath."

William Garnett, the couple's solicitor, said that Miss Taylorford was "very low and disappointed" by the outcome. He said: "They have endured immense strain, both before and during the hearing; the combined forces of *The Sun*, aided by the police, have proved too much. They will be taking advice on their position. They were particularly disappointed at the judge's summing up and feel it was this that tipped the scales against them."

The Times

A distribution problem led to some readers in the North East of England not receiving *The Times* yesterday. We apologise for the inconvenience caused.

Law reforms 'will boost divorce rate'

Proposals to reform divorce laws will prompt more marriage break-ups and increase the burden on taxpayers, a report released yesterday by the Centre for Policy Studies, a leading Conservative think-tank, claims. In a assault on the Green Paper put forward by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, it expressed astonishment at plans to make divorce easier and concern at the rising number of single parents. The centre predicted another surge in the UK divorce rate, already among the highest in the world, more poverty-stricken single-parent families, more hurt to children, and a sharp increase in the welfare bill.

Ruth Deech, the author and principal of St Anne's College, Oxford, also accused ministers of continuing to ignore the evidence about damage done to children by divorce. Household survey, page 7

Head may be suspended

A head teacher who prevented pupils seeing a *Romeo and Juliet* ballet was last night recommended for suspension by her education authority. Gus John, director of education for Hackney, east London, said he had found prima facie evidence of gross misconduct by Jane Brown, Governors of Kingsmead primary school called an emergency meeting. Mr John is continuing investigations into allegations of irregularities concerning the appointment of Ms Brown, 36, by an interviewing panel which included Nicki Thorogood, who has set up home with Ms Brown.

Jeering fans face life ban

Leeds United football club is to ban for life up to 50 supporters who jeered and chanted during a minute's silence in honour of Sir Matt Busby before last Saturday's game at Blackburn. Video tapes are to be studied to identify the ringleaders. Leslie Silver, the Leeds chairman, said: "We think there were 25-50 ringleaders whom we hope to identify." In a separate statement, the players supported the club board, saying: "We believe we must make a firm stand to alienate the hooligan element from Leeds. We do not want their support at games."

Pair found dead in car

A man and his wife were found dead in their fume-filled car by garage staff opening for work. Marilyn Douglas, 31, and his wife Julie, 26, were discovered on Monday in the garage in Horsforth, Leeds, where Mr Douglas worked. The engine was still running. Police are treating the incident as a murder enquiry and are not looking for anyone else. They believe Mrs Douglas's body was put into the car and she did not die at the scene. She was last seen alive in the early hours of Sunday at the couple's home in Armley. A post mortem examination has been held and an inquest will be opened.

Protest at valley pylons

The Duke of Wellington has joined the film producer David Putnam, the comedian Billy Connolly and the entertainer Jools Holland to protest about Scottish Power's plans to erect 40 miles of electricity pylons across an unspoiled Ayrshire valley. The duke, whose family has land interests in the Stinchard valley, says in a letter in today's *Times* that he believes the proposal is deplorable. The plan to erect more than 200 80ft pylons along 40 miles of the valley is part of a proposed £175 trillion link connecting Northern Ireland with the national grid. Letters, page 17

ITV God slot is missed

The Independent Television Commission has told ITV that its attempt to boost ratings by scrapping its Sunday evening religion slot is flying in the face of popular demand after a survey showed almost half of viewers, including non-believers, would be likely to watch religious programmes on Sunday between 6pm and 10.30pm. Blatch's blessing, page 6

Player denies murder

An Arsenal youth team player, Kevin Dennis, told the Old Bailey yesterday that he killed Simon Geary accidentally with a knife when he went to protect his father, who with his older brother Desmond was struggling in the street with Mr Geary. Kevin, 17, and Desmond, 18, of Highbury, north London, deny murdering Mr Geary, 23, in September.

Police to exhume sisters

Police investigating the deaths of two sisters have obtained coroners' warrants for their bodies to be exhumed in Newark after questioning their mother, Celia Butler, Tracey Butler, 4, died in 1986 after a drug overdose and her sister Clare, 7, died in 1991. A post mortem examination showed she suffered severe brain damage and died from her injuries.

Wren awarded £134,000

A former Chief Wren who had to leave the Navy after becoming pregnant was awarded £133,969 in compensation at an industrial tribunal hearing in Southampton yesterday. Patricia Prior, 43, of Gosport, was discharged in 1983. She may receive up to £200,000 after her pension entitlement has been added to the award.

Theatre plays again

The Everyman theatre in Liverpool is to reopen following a campaign led by the playwrights Willy Russell and Alan Bleasdale and the director Terry Hands. The theatre went into liquidation last year and has been sold to the owners of a nearby bistro. The Arts Council and local authorities have agreed to reinstate the theatre's £180,000 grant.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26 1994

Tearful actress, rumbustious businessman and fashionable advocate lead in courtroom drama

Fate writes another tough scene for EastEnders star

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

GILLIAN Taylforth discovered yesterday that at least one audience was unmoved by her skills as an actress, when she lost her costly libel suit against *The Sun*.

She learnt that while times on Albert Square playing Kathy Beale in the BBC's *EastEnders* can be tough, life is harder still when High Court juries and not scriptwriters decide your fate.

She has also learnt that mud sticks, especially when thrown by the eminent defence barrister George Carman QC, hired by *The Sun* to defend its salacious front-page report of her "sex romp" on the A1 with her fiancé Geoffrey Knights.

Miss Taylforth, 38, and Mr Knights, 39, who live in Highbury, north London, face a bill for the 11-day hearing unofficially estimated at close to £500,000. Mr Knights had told the jury that he was forced to sell his Ferrari Testarossa to pay for the case.

They sued the newspaper for repeating a police allegation that they had oral sex on a slip-road of the A1 after a day at Ascot races in June 1992. *The Sun* denied libel and said the story was true.

The couple, who have a daughter, Jessica, aged 2, claimed they pulled over for Mr Knights to be sick when he suffered an attack of pancreatitis, brought on by heavy drinking. They said he had undone his trousers to ease the pain and Miss Taylforth was leaning towards him in concern, with her hand on his stomach, when PC Terence Talbot arrived and jumped to the wrong conclusion.

For two weeks, Miss Taylforth's private life was placed under a microscope by Mr Carman, resulting in public exposure of a kind that a

BBC soap opera could never hope to match.

In a re-enactment of the incident, she was required to place her face in Mr Knights' groin as the jury trooped round the vehicle. Miss Taylforth had to admit that oral sex in the front seat of a Land Rover is a gymnastic possibility, watch a private video which showed her cowering with a German samurai and deny an affair with a married scriptwriter.

For his part, Mr Knights, a wealthy consultant businessman, had to endure public re-

an unrelenting barrage of press publicity. Stories about her sometimes volatile relationship with Mr Knights, whom she met in a London nightclub in 1989, regularly featured, especially when their daughter Jessica was born in January 1992.

Last year came the so-called soap bust-up when the wife of the *EastEnders* scriptwriter Tony Jordan accused her of having an affair with him and Mr Knights was accused of rewarding him with two black eyes. The allegations were strongly denied.

Eight times a bridesmaid but not yet a bride, the actress has described herself as a romantic. The daughter of a master printer and an office cleaner, she progressed as a young woman from impersonating musical acts at family get-togethers to a drama club, later she took time off from her secretarial work whenever a part came up. Before she won a starring role in the first episode of *EastEnders* in 1985, she appeared in *Play for Today*, *Hi-De-Hi* and *Sink or Swim*.

Yesterday, despite any fondness they have for her screen character, the libel jury in court 13 accepted police testimony. They decided the couple had become carried away while driving home from Royal Ascot and pulled off the road to commit an act of indecency.

The BBC and the cast of *EastEnders* gave Miss Taylforth unequivocal support in bringing the case. One insider said: "She's a lovely lady and whatever happens in her private life is entirely separate from her part as Kathy Beale."

Costly case, page 1
Libel casino, page 33



How the case began: The Sun's front page

examination of his criminal record, for which he has already paid his debt to society, and defend himself against insinuations of an affair with a Greek Cypriot woman called Dora.

As the tough, tender but troubled owner of Albert Square's bistro, Miss Taylforth has been divorced, raped and generally messed about by her men. In real life, too, the actress has been touched by personal misfortune.

A favourite cousin died in the 1974 Guildford pub bombings. She has been subject to

Classical style outplayed by a real-life Rumpole

By FRANCIS GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE Carman QC was celebrating in the Fleet Street wine bar El Vinos after the *EastEnders* libel case yesterday confirmed his reputation as Britain's most fashionable advocate. But the lengthy jury deliberations after an 11-day battle between two top advocates proved the outcome had been far from predictable.

Mr Carman triumphed after a particularly devastating display of his own brand of advocacy, dismissed by his opponent, Michael Beloff QC, as "a vintage episode of *Rumpole of the Bailey*, or the magician's tricks of Perry Mason".

Not only were there memorable soundbites — Gillian Taylforth's comment "I give good head" might be her epitaph, he told the jury — but there was a reconstruction of alleged events and, probably most damning of all, the revelations in the video of Miss Taylforth at a party.

The contrast in the QCs' style could not have been greater. Mr Beloff, 51, a relative unknown on the libel stage, was a less obvious choice. "He is a very, very good lawyer, very bright, but his usual stamping ground is the House of Lords and Court of Appeal," one QC said. "There are essentially two kinds of lawyer: the jury advocate, which Mr Carman is, and the advocate who is best speaking to a judge."

Mr Beloff, more usually to be found handling judicial reviews, has a traditional style: eloquent if somewhat slow and long-winded. But, faced with the "master of the soundbite", he rose to the occasion. He invoked the tennis player John McEnroe —



Carman: does not hesitate to go for the jugular

"are you serious?" — to denote the unlikelihood of an A1 sliproad as a place for sexual activity, and went on to dismiss his opponent as the "Torvill and Dean of advocacy rolled into one, but with this important difference: straight sizes for style, straight zeros for content."

The *EastEnders* case is not the first where Mr Carman, 64, has drawn barbs from colleagues. In *Mona Bauwens' action against The People*, Richard Hartley QC called him the "past master of the wink, nudge, nudge". Mr Carman had behaved like



Beloff: relative unknown on the libel stage

a "stand-up comic in a music hall act" and had subjected his client to a "verbal mugging". The case ended with the jury tied 6-6.

He is a style uncommon in British courts. But contrary to popular belief, while distinctive, his advocacy is not in the melodramatic tradition of the criminal courts. Nor is it full of the bluster of some American attorneys. Dapper, silver-haired and courteous, the manner of the diminutive (5ft 3in) Mr Carman is donnish and studied, out of court and in it, with a quiet if incisive delivery. One QC described him as "smooth and silky"; very much "controlled aggression".

Out of court, the thrice-married QC is said to be a "scholarship" man. He is a member of the Garrick and enjoys good food and wine. Yesterday Sir David Napley, credited with "spotting" Mr Carman and using him in the Jeremy Thorpe trial, said: "He does not hesitate to go for the jugular." His skill owed as much to preparation and his "power of concentration" as to presentation, Sir David added. "He knows every detail of a case and will only work on one at a time."

Above all, though, what links him with American advocates is his skill with the jury. Sir David said: "He speaks the language of the jury rather than the ordinary stilted language of the law."

A particular tactic is to exploit weaknesses of the other side. Mr Hartley said: "He makes it seem as though the plaintiff is on trial and not the defendant."

"He does it by taking the scene away from the libel and concentrating on destroying the plaintiff's credit. It's very effective."

Libel law proves costly lottery

GILLIAN Taylforth, the *EastEnders* actress, and Geoffrey Knights, her fiancé, learnt yesterday how libel law can be an expensive lottery.

Libel law starts with the noble idea of protecting precious reputations, but the way it works in practice is a little different.

Even the most trivial libel case can cost £50,000, others vastly more. Among the most expensive is believed to have been that brought by Dr Sidney Gee, the Harley

Street slimming expert, against the BBC. After an 87-day trial, the case was settled with the BBC agreeing to pay £75,000 damages. The costs of the case were estimated at £1.2 million.

Miss Taylforth and Mr Knights face a bill for the 11-day hearing in court 13, unofficially estimated at £500,000. The breakdown is likely to be about £200,000 costs for the plaintiffs and £300,000 each for *The Sun* and for the Metropolitan police.

Miss Taylforth's QC, Michael Beloff, will have commanded a retainer of about £40,000 to take the case, plus a daily rate of £2,000.

George Carman QC, counsel for *The Sun*, will charge a similar sum. "Most libel actions are settled out of court because of the risks of going to trial," Tom Cronin, legal manager of *The Sun*, said. "The first lesson of libel is: if you don't like losing, don't play the game."



Gillian Taylforth in an *EastEnders* court scene. Her role dates from episode one

Boy friend is no stranger to court

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

GEOFFREY Knights staked much of his fortune to try to clear the couple's reputation.

Each day he accompanied Miss Taylforth to court and sat protectively at her side. The battle with *The Sun* was one which he clearly relished, in spite of knowing that the jury would certainly be told he had a criminal record dating back to 1969.

Under cross-examination Mr Knights, 39, admitted he was no stranger to the courts. At the age of 15 he broke a man's jaw and nose in a fight and was given a suspended sentence after admitting assault.

In 1973, the fitness enthusiast was convicted of burglary. Two years later, he was given a six-month sentence, suspended for 18 months, on two assault charges.

Between 1977 and 1985, he was fined for criminal damage and in 1986 jailed for nine months, with six suspended, for criminal damage after a fight in a restaurant. He served two months.

The court was told how he allegedly put Tony Jordan, an *EastEnders* scriptwriter, in hospital last year, after seeing him drop off Miss Taylforth at their flat. An affair between the actress and Mr Jordan was strongly denied.

Mr Knights made his money during 20 years in the office equipment world, advising larger companies on acquiring smaller concerns.

His wealth is based on assets and investments, and to pay his solicitors' estimated £100,000 initial fees he had to sell his £80,000 Ferrari.

His interest in other women was the subject of cross-examination in court, but he denied staying with a 22-year-old Greek Cypriot girl called Dora, and her flat-mate Valerie at their home in Palmers Green, north London, and on



Knights: criminal record dating back to 1969

another occasion in nearby Southgate. He said, however, that he had visited a nightclub in Hoddeston, Hertfordshire, with both women and another close friend called Sandra, who was, he said, his former personal assistant.

For more than ten years, Mr Knights' taste for a champagne lifestyle has been disrupted by pancreatitis, for which he has been admitted to hospital five times.

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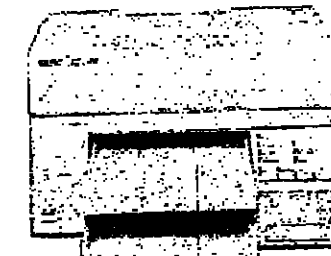
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Father who wept for missing daughter gets life for murder

BY ANDREW PIERCE

A FATHER who made an emotional television appeal for his missing daughter to return home was jailed for life yesterday for her murder.

Derek Fleming killed 23-year-old Linda because she had discovered his 16-year affair with another woman. As he was led away on his 52nd birthday to begin his sentence, relatives at Leeds Crown Court wept.

Fleming, who struck his daughter nine times on the head with a lump hammer in the utility room of the family home at Elland, West Yorkshire, had admitted manslaughter but denied murder.

Mr Justice Tucker said: "The jury has rejected your contention it was something she said or did that provoked you to act in that way."

Fleming, a journey firm manager, had been having an affair with Ann Dearden, who lived in nearby Ovenden. They were planning to go to Spain in March, two months after Linda's death. Det Sgt Mick Saunders, who led the murder enquiry, said: "I think that what possibly happened was that Linda had suspicions for quite some time about her father's affair and finally decided she was going to have it

out with him, and that was the catalyst for it."

Fleming, who had dumped his daughter's body in a water-filled ditch on the Yorkshire moors, said tearfully at a televised press conference: "Linda, wherever you are and for whatever reason, please come home or just ring. We all love you and want you back home."

Detectives saw through the charade and unmasked Fleming in front of his wife Barbara, 50, their son Stuart, 20, and Miss Fleming's boy friend, Stuart Williamson, 25.

The court was told that after



Fleming making his tearful TV appeal

Miss Fleming's rare challenge to Fleming's authority his control snapped and he attacked her with the 2lb hammer. He wrapped the body in a polythene bag, cleaned the utility room and put the body in his car boot. Fleming spent the day making business calls across West Yorkshire in his car before dumping Miss Fleming's battered remains.

When he got home Mrs Fleming expressed concern about their daughter. He suggested that she would be saying with her boy friend, Miss Fleming, a trainee pharmacist, was treated as "missing from home" for nine days until walkers discovered her body at Scammonden, near Halifax.

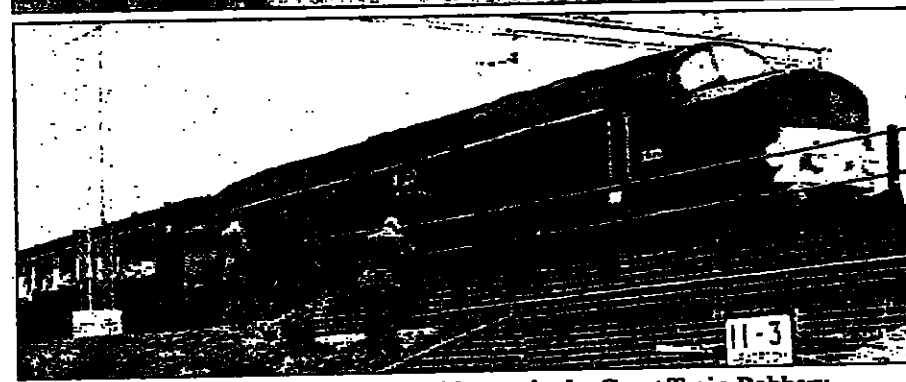
Fleming denied that he had killed his daughter because she had discovered the affair. Mrs Dearden told the court that she had been Fleming's mistress for 16 years but did not know if Mrs Fleming knew. She did not think that Miss Fleming knew.

Fleming told the court that on the day Miss Fleming died she had been trying to talk to him about her problems. He had promised to discuss them later and claims she pushed him violently and shouted: "That's all you think of, you and your bloody work."

Fleming said: "I remember going back towards Linda and remember my left hand being on Linda's shoulder and my right hand swinging over. My next clear recollection is, I am on the floor kneeling part way over Linda and she is on the floor with her head in the corner. I heard Linda's head striking the wall or floor on the way down." At first he denied any "knowledge of striking my daughter". He then said that he recalled "striking her two or three times with the hammer".

A Home Office pathologist's examination had shown Miss Fleming had "terrible head injuries" and there were signs of strangulation with a ligature.

Detectives who interviewed Fleming said that he never showed remorse for killing the daughter that many people had believed he idolised.



Roy James served 13 years for his part in the Great Train Robbery

Train robber tells court of regrets

BY A STAFF REPORTER

ROY James, one of the Great Train Robbers, told a jury yesterday he took no pride in his part in the 1963 robbery and wished he could "turn the clock back".

The 58-year-old jeweller had gone into the witness box to explain why he shot his former father-in-law three times and then pistol-whipped his former wife Anthea last May.

James, who denies attempted murder and wounding, does not deny the attack but claims he did not mean to kill or cause serious harm.

He had come to the end of his tether and "flipped his lid" that day, the Old Bailey was told. The breakdown of his "ill-fated and disastrous marriage" to a woman 30 years his junior had played a large part in his mental breakdown, Nicholas Price QC, for the defence, said.

Mr Price said what the jury had to decide was his mental state at the time. "You don't have to be a psychiatrist with a string of letters after your name to know something must have gone dreadfully wrong," he said.

James, who served 13 years of a 30-year sentence, said he had not personally been involved in any violence in the robbery. Asked by Mr Price how he felt about his role, he said: "It is something I have to live with. I wish I could turn the clock back. It's not

an ordinary crime where you can become a nonentity. You have to live with being a train robber, so whatever you do you are a train robber." Mr Price asked: "Do you take any pride in that?" "No," James said.

James told the court he met his wife when she came to work for his business in Hatton Garden. He was concerned about the age gap as she was only 17, but Anthea had proposed to him. They married in 1964 and later bought a luxury home set in 16 acres in Headley, Surrey.

James said he thought the marriage was happy. He tried to "cherish" his wife, buying her expensive gifts for her and their two daughters. "I totally loved them and tried to give them what I never had."

But the marriage became volatile, James said, and his wife spent some time in an alcohol-dependency clinic. When they divorced he had problems raising the £150,000 settlement, which the court has been told led to the shooting incident at the house in Headley.

Mr Price has told the court that James became depressed and felt a lack of self-worth. He had even enquired about surgery "to hold back the march of time in a pathetic attempt to make himself attractive to women".

The trial continues.

Wheelchair traveller shunted into siding

AN ELDERLY woman in a wheelchair was shunted into a siding in the guard's van of an empty train.

Lucy Flynn, 64, waited in vain for the ramp she had requested to help her off at Manchester's Victoria Station at the end of her journey from Rhyl, North Wales. On arrival, the train emptied and moved off to a carriage depot with only Mrs Flynn. She was found by three staff who had the train returned to the station.

"When the train started moving again I shouted out 'Is anybody there?' but there was no reply," Mrs Flynn, of

Salford, said. "I was a nervous wreck. Anyone could have got on."

British Rail has apologised to Mrs Flynn and is to send her travel vouchers to encourage her to travel by train again. Staff are being interviewed to find out what went wrong and to ensure that it does not happen again.

A BR spokeswoman said: "She had made the arrangements to be met by a porter or guard with a ramp. Unfortunately, there seems to have been some sort of breakdown in communication."

'Infected meat' threatens the life of girl, 16

BY LIN JENKINS

Doctors fear the case of Victoria Rimmer could provide the first link between the food chain and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease

A GIRL aged 16 who is dying in hospital may be the first person to have contracted the human equivalent of what is popularly known as "mad cow disease" from handling or eating infected meat.

The case of Victoria Rimmer is causing concern among medical experts, some of whom fear it could provide the first link between Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) and the food chain. Scientific studies have failed to find evidence that the disease can be transferred to humans through meat products from animals suffering from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

Barry Jones, Labour MP for Alyn and Deeside, which includes Victoria's home at Connaught Quay, has called for a government statement on the case and a public enquiry. He said that if the cause was attributed to the food chain the implications would be huge.

Victoria is blind, deaf and unable to speak. The damage to her brain so severe that she cannot move and is turned every two hours by nurses. Before her condition deteriorated she scrawled in lipstick on her calendar: "I want my

life back." Her decline is documented tonight in a Channel 4 Dispatches programme. Beryl Rimmer, Victoria's grandmother, said: "As long as I live I will always wonder, why Vicky? a child so healthy? ... if she had been a sickly child for years I would have understood."

Victoria was a normal teenager, interested in clothes, makeup and boy friends and with a passion for dogs. Her pet dog Sophie is still at home. "She worked in the kennels on

weekends and school holidays. She loved animals," Mrs Rimmer said.

The Health Department said the condition could not be diagnosed until a post mortem examination.

Richard Lacey, professor of medical microbiology at Leeds University, who holds a minority view among experts, believes food is to blame. He told Dispatches: "We know the most likely food is processed food, the burgers and sausages. We have to assume it was these products, from cows, that caused the disease and we think this is the first certain case of BSE infecting a member of the human race by this method."

Deaths from CJD among

young people are rare. Past cases have been attributed to injections of growth hormones taken from the pituitary glands of corpses of people who had CJD.

Measures to stop potentially infected parts of cattle, in particular dairy cows, entering the food chain took effect in 1989, three years after BSE was first diagnosed in cattle after being known only in sheep, in a slightly different form.

Incidence of BSE is falling in the UK but continuing to rise in Scotland. The number of cases in the UK last year fell by about 4.5 per cent from 44,846 to 42,928. In Scotland there was an increase of 24 per cent to 2,705 cases.

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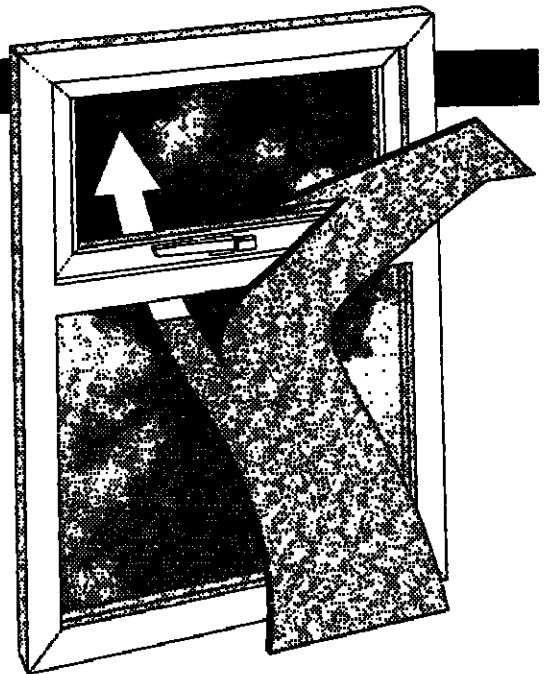
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Traditionalists say model syllabuses are 'multi-faith mish-mash' that will confuse young pupils

Blessing is given to school lessons in six main faiths

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

SCHOOLS will be expected to give lessons on the five main minority religions in Britain, while still devoting most of their religious education to Christianity, under controversial guidelines published yesterday.

Baroness Blatch, the education minister, gave the Government's blessing to two model syllabuses published by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority. But she stressed that neither would be compulsory, and assured representatives of minority faiths that the proposals would be amended in the light of two months' consultation.

The detailed guidelines on the content of religious education are the product of 18 months' discussion in which several religions were represented, as well as professional organisations. But the proposals have been attacked for allocating too much time to Christianity, at the expense of other faiths.

At the launch of the new syllabuses yesterday, the authority avoided making recommendations to divide up teaching time. Jeremy Taylor, who helped draft the proposals as a representative of the Professional Council for Religious Education, said there was a "danger of misrepresentation by those with an axe to grind". Syllabuses would be agreed locally and teachers would decide allocation of time.

The two model syllabuses offer examples of the topics that should be covered. One focuses on knowledge and understanding of religious communities, while the other concentrates on the key beliefs of different religions.

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that an agreed syllabus should "reflect the fact that the religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian while taking account of the other principal religions represented". Lady Blatch said nothing in the latest proposals would affect this requirement. Christianity should take up at least half of lesson-time but the basics of Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism should also be studied.

Christianity would be a central and compulsory part of the curriculum from the age of five. In addition, pupils would study two other religions by the age of 11, a further two faiths by 14 and all five major non-Christian religions by the age of 16.

Traditionalist critics and Christian campaigners have attacked this approach as a "multi-faith mish-mash" which would confuse younger pupils. Members of the Church of England General

synod warned that the proposals could lead to an "educational disaster". The model syllabuses represent the Government's first attempt to give national guidelines on religious education. They reflect widespread concern, shared by school inspectors, that many schools are flouting the law by failing to teach RE adequately.

Teachers have placed the blame on staff shortages and attacked Government "interference" with religion. Some schools estimate they will need 50 per cent more RE experts to cope with the increased time allotted to the subject.

The draft guidelines, drawn up before the controversy over the Prime Minister's back-to-basics policy, have a strong moral dimension including teaching children the difference between right and wrong. Lady Blatch said religious education was "a real basic", which had an important contribution to make in the spiritual and moral development of pupils.

Chris Woodhead, chief executive of the authority, said all those involved in developing the proposals were united on the subject's importance. "I am convinced that publication of these documents will strengthen the position of RE in schools, raise standards and encourage teachers to teach the subject in a rigorous and challenging way."

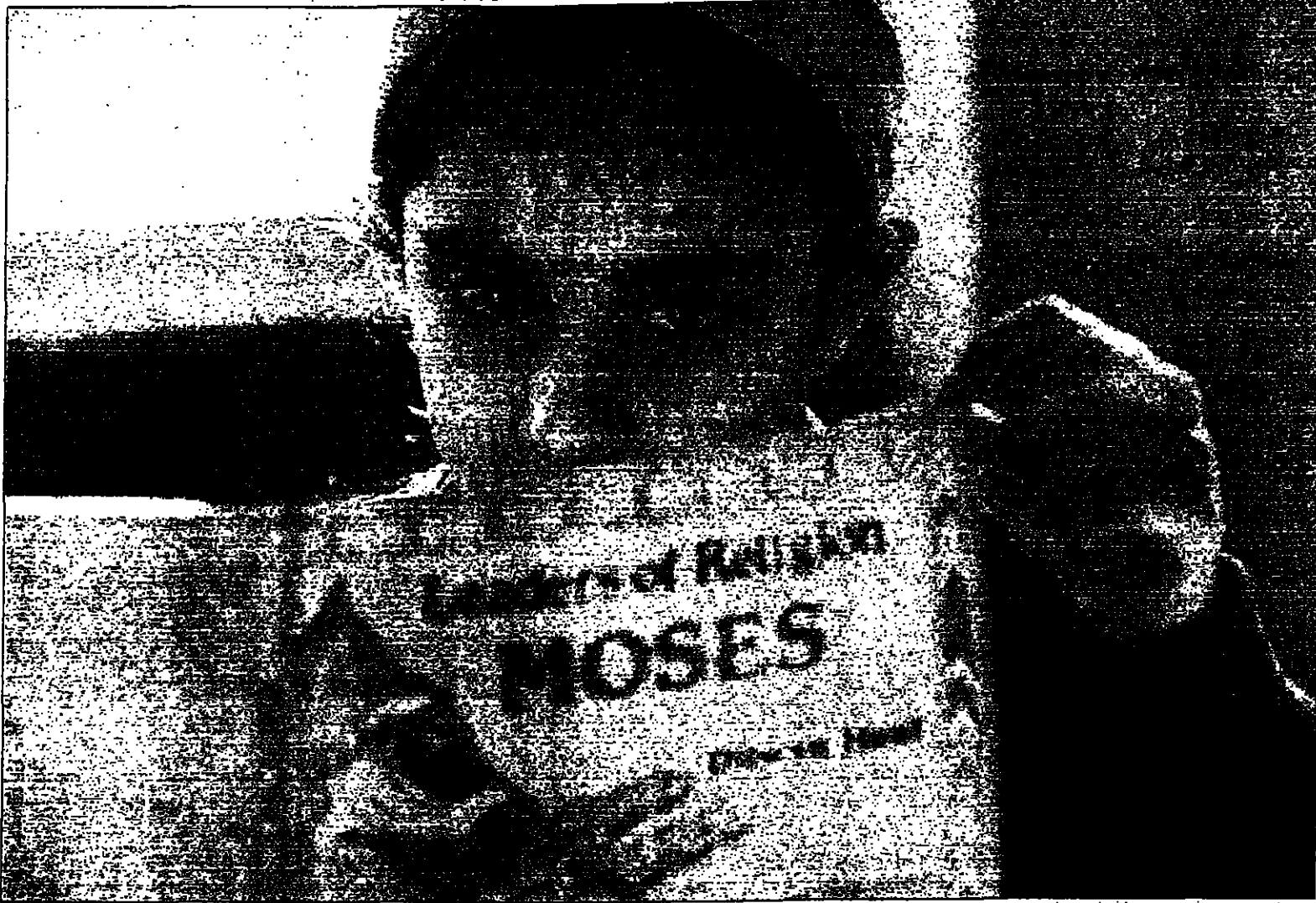
The model syllabuses, based on an average of 40 hours a year, are being sent to schools where teachers and governors can adapt them to meet local needs. Final proposals are expected from the Government in July.

Representatives of each of the faiths covered in the model syllabuses suggested the basic points to be covered. Pupils might learn about the Jewish view of God as the "one Creator" and study stories from the Jewish scriptures, for example. The model syllabus covers the importance of the Jewish sabbath, the Shabbat, the Friday night meal, and Hanuka, the festival of lights.

Pupils would be taught that Sikhs worship one God as the Creator of all things and that all human beings are equal before God. They should learn stories from the lives of Gurus, and the significance of uncut hair and the wearing of turbans.

Teaching on the central tenets of Buddhism would include Buddha's moral teachings about kindness, enlightenment and compassion, and his philosophy that people should not tell lies, steal or hurt any living thing.

Edward Norman, page 16
Leading article, page 17



A pupil at Elizabeth Garrett Anderson school in north London studies Bible stories the modern way, alongside Islam and Buddhism

Comic-strip Moses takes over from scriptures

BERYL Loveridge started teaching scripture, as it was called then, 34 years ago. Today, as a head teacher, she still keeps her original, yellowing copy of the King James Bible by her desk.

This battered volume, held together by copious amounts of sticky tape, is testament to the way religion used to be taught. It is interleaved, with almost every page of print matched by another of meticulous annotation in tiny handwriting.

Miss Loveridge recalled: "In my youth, religion was a matter of reading verses of the Bible around class. I also taught science and I used to wear my white laboratory coat in religion classes to give me more authority."

But the days of Bible study are over. Yesterday a group of 12-year-olds at Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, a girls' comprehensive in Islington, north

RE has changed for the better, embracing a multi-cultural message as well as old-fashioned values, Ben Preston writes

London, was learning about Moses. They worked from a cartoon book rather than a biblical text and then wrote reports of the story as if for a newspaper.

Another class was learning about the various symbols used by different faiths.

"This is change for the better," said Miss Loveridge. "Teaching is more imaginative now. It has brought lessons alive and the girls are much more likely to capture the message in terms of values if their attention is seized."

Miss Loveridge said the goal of RE at her school was to teach children values rather than simply impart knowledge. "By the time pupils

leave, I want them to know the essential core values such as 'love your neighbour as yourself', or 'do as you would be done by'. That's not something sloppy."

Although most of her pupils are Christian, about one in six is Muslim, and the remainder include Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs. Overall, RE lessons spend most time on Christianity, but pupils usually study each of the other faiths for about one term.

Linda Tully, 14, said some classmates treated the subject as a joke. "If an employer sees you've done RE, they are not going to be interested. They are looking for qualifications in subjects like science and

mathematics." But Linda has benefited from RE, saying: "A few of my friends are Muslims. When they were fasting, I didn't know what it was about. But then we studied Islam and the Koran and I learnt why people go to mosque and do their religious tasks."

Weimer Wong, 14, doubts the value of the new requirement that most pupils spend as much time learning RE as they do history and geography. She said doubling RE's space in the timetable at Elizabeth Anderson — most pupils have one 35-minute lesson each week at present — would probably be too much. "If you want to know more you can go to a library and look it up yourself."

Bushra Ahmad, 15, a Muslim born in Bangladesh, said she felt isolated and ignorant of Christianity at primary school because she was left alone

each morning when other pupils trooped off for assembly at a neighbouring church. She said RE at secondary level had helped to fill the gaps in her knowledge about Christianity.

The future of RE is regarded with trepidation at Cyril Jackson, primary school, Limehouse, east London. Peter Sawyer, head teacher, is reluctant to tear up the existing syllabus agreed by each of the different faiths in the ethnically mixed borough and start again.

In a school where two-thirds of pupils are Muslim, religion is taught by celebrating and studying the main Muslim, Christian and Chinese festivals. Mr Sawyer said: "Schools in Tower Hamlets have to be very careful not to isolate one group when they teach about religion. We have to tread very carefully indeed."

What children will now be taught

At 7: Descriptions of God as creator and Jesus as an historical figure, with evidence from the Bible.

The basics of Christian values, with illustration from the lives of famous Christian figures.

An understanding of the church as a community of believers; Christian celebrations and regular worship, including Bible stories, prayer and singing.

At 11: The nature of God expressed through symbols. Further evidence of God's existence in the scriptures and human experience.

The context of Jesus's life and events from it, including the resurrection. Beliefs about Jesus and his effect on the lives of individuals.

Characteristics of the church, its basic structure and organisation.

The church's year and key

figures in its history. Bible study, distinguishing between the Old and New Testaments and focusing on the meaning and significance of its stories they contain.

The Ten Commandments as the foundation of Christian morality, beliefs that human beings were created in God's image, became sinful and are capable of redemption.

Christian approaches to personal relationships and social and global issues.

At 14: The nature of God, with descriptions from the writings of Christian teachers and mystics.

Key events in the life of Jesus, as variously presented in the Gospels.

Jesus as the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies, and the relation of his teach-

ings to the contemporary world.

The Holy Trinity as the focus of devotion.

Early church history: the range of denominations and the ecumenical movement.

Linguistic origins of the Bible: how it is used in public worship and as guidance for individuals; differences between literal and allegorical interpretation.

The foundation of Christian ways of life, and differences in approaches to personal, global and social issues.

At 16: The limitations of human language in expressing the nature of God.

The debate about God, and different interpretations of scripture, tradition and human experience.

Contemporary views of Je-

sus's life, compared with the Gospel texts; the second coming, eternal life and judgment; the lives of Christians through the ages.

The purpose of worship and the significance of prayer; different churches' attitudes to central direction; the impact of Christian traditions on education, moral norms, government and monarchy.

The different types of writing in the Bible; its role in inspiring literature, art, music and film; diverse views about its contents, inspiration and authority.

Christian views of creation, the fall of man and salvation; Christian responses to the life of Jesus, love and service to God.

How scripture and prayer influence decisions.

Christian explanations of science, secularisation and suffering.

Learning value of family and faith

WHAT a child might learn in schools that study Hinduism:

At 7: The importance of Krishna, Rama and Shiva, illustrated with stories about them. The importance of basic Hindu values such as devotion to God and respect for other people and all living things.

The importance of the family and respect for grandparents. At 11-16: (studying Hinduism for the first time) Knowledge of how God is worshipped in different forms including Shiva, Ganesh, Vishnu and Rama.

The use of religious symbols including the lotus flower and the swastika. Understanding that Hinduism is originally an Indian religion that involves worship in the home. The importance of pilgrimage.

The names and nature of sacred texts including the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. The role of stories with a moral from the Panchatantra.

At 11-16: (advanced courses) The importance of self-discipline, fasting and ahimsa (non-violence) and its implication for the lives of Hindus, such as vegetarianism. The traditional caste system, its evolution and associations with occupations.

What your child might learn

OTHER RELIGIONS

in schools that study Islam:

At 7: Allah is the Islamic name for One True God and is the Creator. The Koran is the revealed book for Muslims and is treated with respect.

The importance of the festival of Id-ul-Fitr celebrating the successful completion of Ramadan, the month of fasting. At 11-16: (studying Islam for the first time) The importance of obligatory acts of worship such as Shahadah, the declaration of faith in the Oneness of Allah, and Salat, which takes place five times daily. The sources of the Koran.

At 11-16: (advanced courses) Selected texts from the Koran concerning its unchanging nature and allegorical passages. Key beliefs about Allah and in-depth study of Tawhid, Muslim belief in worship and action, including Jihad, the personal struggle to achieve self-improvement and campaigning for the truth.

Muslim family life, including diet and that sexual relations are only permissible within marriage. Islamic culture, illustrated by studying the lives of influential Muslim religious figures, scholars, scientists and artists.

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Household survey traces changing face of society as video leads home entertainment revolution

Britain's nation of shrinking families

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE typical British household is growing smaller, and the proportion of families headed by single parents has risen to more than one in five, according to a survey published yesterday.

The 1992 General Household Survey shows that people continue to surround themselves with consumer durables: families increasingly use videos and CD players for their entertainment. Ninety-six per cent of all households have a colour television, 72 per cent a video recorder, 33 per cent a CD player and almost 60 per cent a microwave oven.

However, it is the rise in single-parent families that politicians will argue has the most far-reaching consequences for society: the proportion has almost trebled to 21 per cent since 1971.

The increase occurred mainly during the Seventies

and Eighties and has changed little in the Nineties.

The proportion of lone mothers with two or more dependent children has more than doubled to 12 per cent in the last 20 years. Although the average number of children in lone-parent families is smaller than in those headed by married people or a couple living together, the single-parent family is more likely to live in local authority housing.

Fifty-seven per cent of lone-parent families live in rented accommodation, compared with 18 per cent of other families. Forty per cent live in council housing and 27 per cent in a purpose-built flat compared with 31 and 7 per cent of other families.

Living together continues to be a popular option for younger men and women. The percentage of single women aged 18 to 49 cohabiting rose from 8

per cent in 1979 to 21 per cent in 1992.

The survey found that more than 80 per cent of people under 25 in ethnic minority groups had been born in the UK, compared with 15 per cent of those over 25.

The educational levels attained by ethnic minority groups was similar to the white population, but again there were differences between groups. Ten per cent of Indians had a degree compared with 8 per cent of whites. Black Caribbeans were among the least likely to have a degree.

Pakistanis and Bangladeshis were most likely to have no qualifications: 50 per cent of those groups had no qualification compared with 40 per cent of black Caribbeans, 31 per cent of Indians and 35 per cent of the white population. More facts about the British:



Thirty per cent of professional and managerial women drink more than the recommended weekly limit

□ More than a quarter of adults aged 16 and over smoke cigarettes.
□ Sixty per cent of men and 68 per cent of women wear glasses or contact lenses.
□ Since 1971, the proportion

of medical consultations taking place in the patient's home has fallen from 22 per cent to 10 per cent in 1992.
□ Almost 66 per cent of male full-time employees were members of their existing

employer's pension scheme.
□ More than 80 per cent of men and women earning more than £300 a week were in occupational pension schemes compared with only 35 per cent of men and 26 per

cent of women earning £100-£150 a week.

1992 General Household Survey, Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (Stationery Office: £15.85)

Well-paid women top drink table

BY A STAFF REPORTER

HIGH-EARNING professional women are more likely to drink heavily than female manual workers, according to the survey.

Thirty per cent of women in professional and managerial jobs usually consume more than the recommended 14 units of alcohol a week, compared with 8 per cent of unskilled manual workers.

Thirteen per cent of women with wages between £400 and £500 a week and 17 per cent of those earning over £500 a week drink more than the recommended level.

The proportion of women drinking more than the recommended limit has risen by 2.5 percentage points during the past eight years. In contrast, the number of men consuming more than the recommended maximum of 21 units a week has remained steady for six years. Overall, 27 per cent of men over 18 and 11 per cent of women drink more than the maximum.

Adoption ban on smoker

A couple have been told they cannot adopt a second child because the mother smokes. Sharon and Martin Issitt adopted a three-month-old girl five years ago through Leicester social services, but the department refuses to consider the couple's new application.

Mrs Issitt, 33, who smokes ten cigarettes a day, said: "I've tried to stop smoking but it makes me so nasty and irritable."

Judy Hardman, of Leicester social services, said: "We now know the effect of smoking on a child under three is an increased risk of asthma and chest infection. So it's even more important that we make the right choice."

PC cleared

PC Timothy Hanley, 28, who admitted shooting Kevin McGovern, a 19-year-old student, in 1991 but denied murder, was cleared by Belfast Crown Court. Mr Justice Nicholson said PC Hanley had committed a tragic error.

Shop crime

Shops, banks and building societies should have tenants in flats above their premises to provide "natural surveillance" of shopping areas, according to a report on shop crime.

Biting back

A mother fended off a man in Slough, Berkshire who tried to snatch her six-month-old baby by biting him on the face.

Key crisis

Locks had to be replaced at two Yorkshire jails at a cost of £30,000 after two prison officers lost their keys.

Meat-free zone drives BBC crew to despair

BY RICHARD DUCE

A VEGAN playwright was accused of food fascism yesterday after the BBC agreed to his demand to ban meat from the set of his latest drama production.

All catering on the set of G. E. Newman's *The Helper* is vegetarian. However, after protests by the 35-strong production crew, the BBC has agreed to pay them mileage and a meal allowance should they want to go off in search of meatier fare.

Jonathan Evans, Conservative MP for Brecon and Radnor, said the decision was political correctness gone crazy and a waste of licence-payer money.

The BBC is standing by its decision to accede to the demand by Mr Newman, 48, that meat be banned during filming in Wales and in studios in Cardiff.

BBC Wales said: "G. E. Newman is one of Britain's foremost TV dramatists whose uncompromising convictions are familiar to all who have seen his acclaimed productions. Those convictions extend to Mr Newman's approach to work and BBC Wales was happy to comply with his regulation for vegetarian-only catering."

"Production staff who dislike vegetarian fare will, of course, be able to eat food of their choice elsewhere."

One BBC source: "It's crazy. Who is he to say we should eat rabbit food? It's food fascism."

Phil Saunders, of the Meat and Livestock Commission, said: "I find it very disturbing that the BBC is supporting what I regard as the vegetarian thought police."

Crime drives laird from island idyll

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE owner of a Hebridean island has said the lawlessness of some of its 80 inhabitants has shocked him and is driving him out.

Keith Schellenberg, who paid £1 million for 9 sq mile Eigg in 1992, says police cannot control crime. "None of the vehicles on Eigg have MOT certificates, drunkenness is endemic and the new doctor has told me that cannabis is grown on the island."

The row between the locals and the laird intensified after a fire destroyed his 1927 Rolls-Royce. Islanders were adamant

that none of them started the fire, but for Mr Schellenberg it was the last straw.

A police spokesman said only two crimes had been reported on Eigg in 1993 — one theft, and a drug case.

Mr Schellenberg said he was being unfairly portrayed as some kind of despot oppressing the natives. He now plans to dispose of much of the estate to as many individuals who "feel as I do and want to contribute financially and socially to a future" — but only when satisfied "the law can protect them."

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Hurd uncovered spy link after arms trial collapsed

By MICHAEL DYNES
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

DOUGLAS Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday spoke of his "feeling of unease" over the failure of intelligence officials to warn ministers that the defendants in the Matrix Churchill trial had been spying for Britain.

He told Lord Justice Scott's enquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair that while the Foreign Office could make a good case for its arms export policy, there was an anxiety that ministers may have unwittingly contributed to a potential miscarriage of justice.

After the trial collapsed in November 1992, a review of documents revealed that Paul Henderson, the former managing director of Matrix Churchill, had extensive contacts with the intelligence services. But this had not previously been brought to the attention of ministers.

Mr Hurd told the enquiry that Customs officials, who had mounted the prosecution against the three businessmen, had been told to make sure they had sufficient evi-

■ Ministers were not told that the boss of Matrix Churchill spied for Britain, the enquiry into arms-for-Iraq has heard

dence to back up their case. The Foreign Office was worried, however, that it had acquiesced in the granting of export licences for machine tools made by Matrix Churchill while the prosecution was in progress.

Faced by "the drumbeat of accusations" from the Opposition and the press that ministers knew of the connection between Mr Henderson and the intelligence services, Mr Hurd ordered a review of documents to find out exactly what he knew and when he knew it, he told the enquiry.

Mr Hurd earlier told Lord Justice Scott that he was not formally briefed about the 1985 Howe arms export guidelines when he became Foreign Secretary in October 1989. Nor had he been notified of a decision by three junior ministers to relax the guidelines without notifying Parliament of the change in policy in December 1988.

When he took up his position, he was given a series of "position papers" by Foreign Office officials, including one on the Iran-Iraq war. But these were designed to give him a "crash education" in the state of the world. They had not gone into detail about the guidelines, he said.

A new Foreign Secretary had no opportunity to read into the job in any great detail before decisions were taken, he said. "There is no honeymoon or handover period. You are not given an opportunity to sit beside your predecessor before you have to start taking decisions."

Because of the heavy workload of ministers, work had to be delegated to junior ministers, he said. Mr Hurd told the enquiry that his days were filled with meetings, leaving only the moments between them to catch up with urgent business. He would usually get down to his red boxes at

10pm, which often contained paperwork on 15 to 20 decisions, along with numerous letters to sign.

Mr Hurd told the enquiry that in July 1990 he chaired an ad hoc meeting of ministers which agreed to relax the arms export guidelines, particularly as they affected exports of machine tools to Iraq. The decision was never implemented because of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait the following month. But that decision was not an attempt to legitimise the earlier decision taken by the three junior ministers, he said.

Mr Hurd denied allegations made by Opposition MPs and the media that the Government had been involved in a conspiracy to help to rearm Iraq. Whether the arms export guidelines were considered to have been relaxed or changed in December 1988, that was "light years away from any evidence or suggestion of the kind one reads about the whole time in the media of some conspiracy by British ministers to arm Iraq or to indulge in some secret, wrong and wicked conspiracy", he said.



Douglas Hurd arriving at the enquiry yesterday

Policy 'bottom line' on party balance sheets

One of the persistent myths of British politics is that money matters in deciding elections. The Tories believe that higher spending can give them an edge in a close contest which, in turn, provides Labour with the comforting excuse of unfairness for its defeats. In practice, differences in fund-raising are neither as large as is widely supposed, nor do they decide elections. There is no great scandal; only a familiar British story of secrecy and largely petty influence peddling.

So Sir Norman Fowler should not worry too much about fighting this year's elections on a "shoestring" budget. His problem is the Government's record.

The belief in a persistent inequality in party finances runs through *Money and Votes*, a thorough new report by Martin Linton of The Guardian for the Institute for Public Policy Research, the left-of-centre think tank.

Britain gets its politics on the cheap. In real terms, spending during the 1992 campaign was less than 30 per cent of the cost of the 1980 election; the budgets of the three main British parties are only a third of the German ones, even before state funding. Mr Linton makes the apt comparison: "The total turnover of the Conservative Party is about the same as a cottage hospital. The Labour Party has the budget of a teacher training college. The Liberal Democrats have the income of a small primary school."

Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, a leading academic in this area, has shown that the financial gap between the Tories and Labour narrowed substantially during the 1992 campaign. Mr Linton points to a wider gap over the longer term. But there appears to be little relation between differences in budgets and results. Labour spent less relative to the Tories in 1964

and 1966, when it won, than in 1970, 1979 and 1983, when it lost. The report claims that big inequalities also exist in booking poster sites and in the support of the tabloid press, giving the Tories an alleged advantage worth £37 million. But voters are less influenced by all the nonsense of campaigns than by their views, built up over several years, about the record and credibility of the main parties.

The real problem identified by Mr Linton is the parties' poor record in raising money from supporters. In Germany, the SPD, which receives no money from the unions, raises £66 a year from each of its nearly one million members. In Britain Labour, with fewer than 300,000 members, raises on average less than £10 in subscriptions per member. The Tories raise much less per member than the Christian Democrats. That accounts for their increased need to raise money from wealthy individuals, at home and abroad.

The answer is not, as Mr Linton suggests, restrictions such as limiting national campaign spending and blacking out advertising for the beginning and end of campaigns. What is needed is greater transparency and incentives for the parties to broaden their bases of support. Donations above, say, £5,000 are not merely a private matter. They can affect public actions and should be disclosed.

There is, as the report argues, a strong case for shifting the balance of party financing from a small number of large donors to a large number of small donors by giving tax refunds on donations of up to £1,000 a year. The problem with British politics is not that it is awash with money, but that so few people join and work for parties. Politics has become a minority interest.

PETER RIDDELL

Tory backers 'win bulk of honours'

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than half the honours awarded to industrialists over the past 13 years have gone to companies that have donated to the Tory Party, claims a report published yesterday.

The document, from the Institute for Public Policy Research, says that 6.2 per cent of companies gave money to the Tory Party between 1979 and 1992. In the same period 50.25 per cent of knightships and peerages for services to industry or to exports have gone to those companies, it suggests.

Senior party officials immediately dismissed the report as "another Labour smear", and challenged the institute to come up with details to support its claims.

The institute's findings will be raised by members of the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee, which is producing its own report on party political finances next month. It emerged yesterday that Labour members of the committee are threatening to produce a minority report calling for all donations over £5,000 to be disclosed. They may also push for a ceiling on cash used for election coverage and a ban on foreign donations, demands which the Tory-dominated committee is unlikely to support.

The authors of the institute's report admitted that there was no proof that the honours had been awarded because the companies had given money. However, the likelihood of the link being pure coincidence was the same "as someone blindfold throwing 99 darts at a dartboard haphazardly and finding that 50 darts landed in

number 13", said Martin Linton, the report's co-author. The institute, which is associated with the Labour Party, cites work from the Labour Research Department based on annual reports of large companies over the last three decades. It found that there was no link during the Wilson and Callaghan Governments. But since 1979 the correlation had become increasingly strong.

The trend appears to be continuing, the report says. "The 1994 New Years Honours included four knightships for services to industry or exports, two of them to companies — Glaxo and Sun Alliance — that are among the top 20 donors to the Conservative Party."

However, Conservative Party officials said the Labour Research Department work had already been discredited as it had underestimated the number of companies that gave money to the party.

The report also claims that the Tories exploited their position in Government at the last general election by allowing their advertising agency, Saatchi and Saatchi, to book poster sites three weeks before the election was declared.

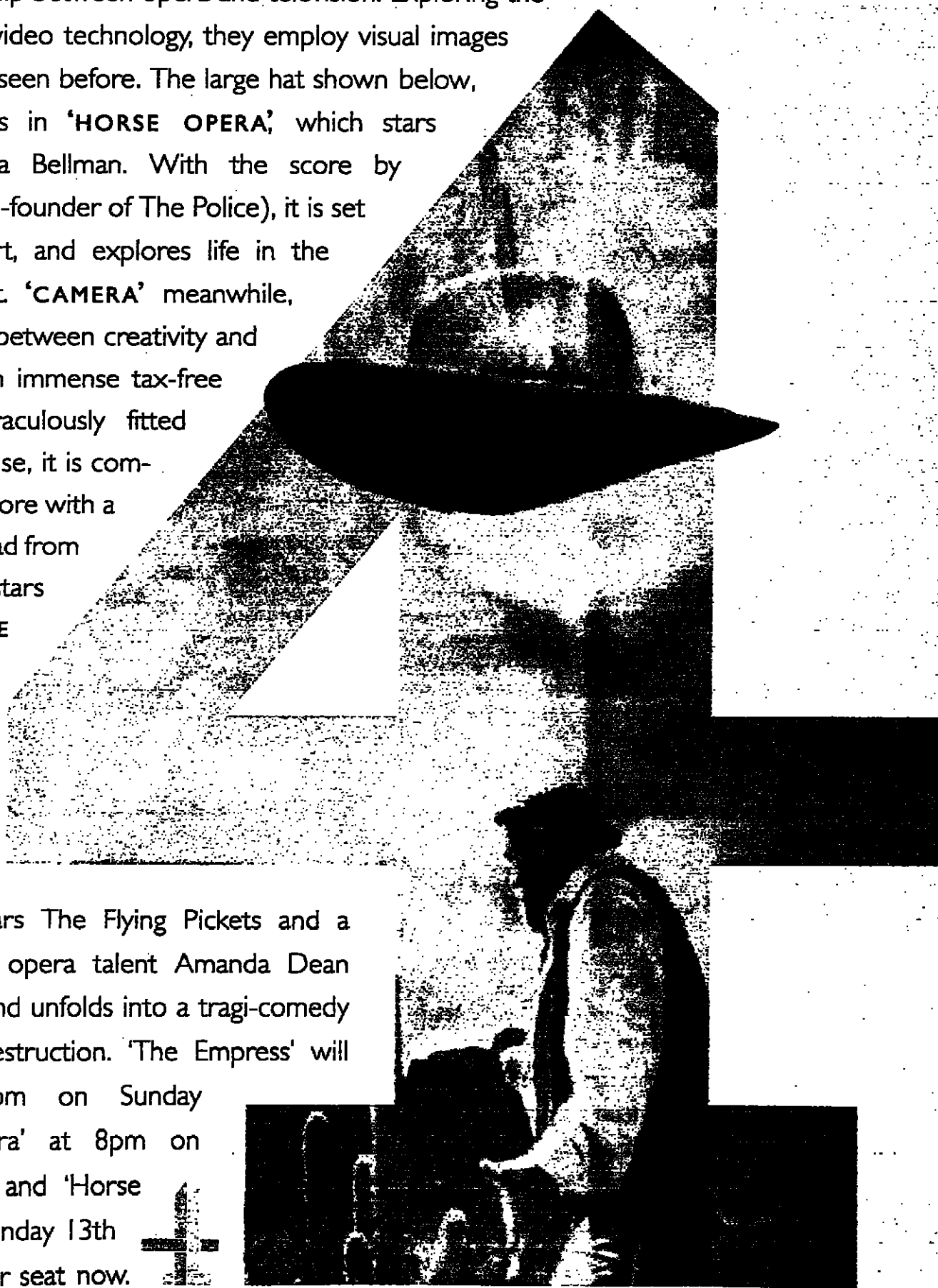
In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: Scottish Office. Debate on housing.

Lords (2.30): Debates on arts funding and Scottish National Portrait Gallery. Sale of Goods (Amendment) Bill, committee.

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Beginning 30th January, Channel Four brings a series of operas to the small screen. But these are no ordinary productions. Specially commissioned by Channel Four, these unique musical events effectively redefine the relationship between opera and television. Exploring the very cutting edge of video technology, they employ visual images that have never been seen before. The large hat shown below, for example, appears in 'HORSE OPERA', which stars Rik Mayall and Gina Bellman. With the score by Stewart Copeland (co-founder of The Police), it is set in the Arizona desert, and explores life in the American Wild West. 'CAMERA' meanwhile, explores the struggle between creativity and bureaucracy. Set in an immense tax-free haven, which is miraculously fitted within a suburban house, it is composed by Anthony Moore with a libretto by Peter Blegvad from Slapp Happy and stars Dagmar Krause. 'THE EMPRESS', the first in the series, was written by David Gale and composed by Orlando Gough, and concerns a matriarchal society. It stars The Flying Pickets and a Gladiator, as well as opera talent Amanda Dean and Valerie Morgan, and unfolds into a tragi-comedy of lust, greed and destruction. 'The Empress' will be showing at 8pm on Sunday 30th January, 'Camera' at 8pm on Sunday 6th February and 'Horse Opera' at 8pm on Sunday 13th February. So book your seat now.



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Major grasp of pollution the decaying

Major grasps nettle of pollution to save the decaying planet

By Nick Nuttall and Michael Hornsby

BRITONS are to be encouraged to drive less and walk more as part of a wider campaign to curb pollution, conserve natural resources and boost quality of life.

Sweeping changes in lifestyles were signalled yesterday in a series of long-awaited documents, unveiled in London by John Major, which are aimed at meeting environmental commitments agreed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro two years ago.

The four papers outline how the Government plans to curb emissions of gases linked to global warming, protect plant

and animal life, boost forestry, and persuade people to live in a more eco-friendly fashion.

The Prime Minister, supported by members of the Cabinet, said it was time for politicians to look beyond normal electoral terms of office into an uncertain future.

Hard political decisions were being and would be taken over the coming years. They were likely to be unpopular, but were necessary if Britain was to develop economically without further damaging the "air people breathe, the water we drink and the countryside we enjoy".

Mr Major included in his list of politically tough environmental decisions VAT on fuel bills and extra petrol taxes to curb car usage.

He rejected environmentalists' claims that the measures were aimed at raising revenue rather than cutting CO₂ emissions and confirmed that the road-building programme, under fire for merely meeting the projected growth in cars, was under review. Road pricing — charging motorists for using the network — was also high on the agenda.

"I do not expect to have people dancing in the streets in delight at the concept of road pricing, but if you look at the environmental problems you can see the impetus behind the policy and the necessity," Mr Major said.

The Prime Minister said other hard political decisions might include boosting nuclear power over the coming years.

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, announced the setting up of a "grassroots scheme" called the Citizen's Environment Initiative which would try to put across the message of sustainable living to local residents and communities.

"Everyone involved has to say 'Could I walk instead of drive, could I turn the lights off rather than leave them on, could I turn my central heating down a notch?'"

The Prime Minister also announced the setting up of an independent panel on sustainable development, under Sir Crispin Tickell, director of the centre for environmental policy and understanding at Green College, Oxford.

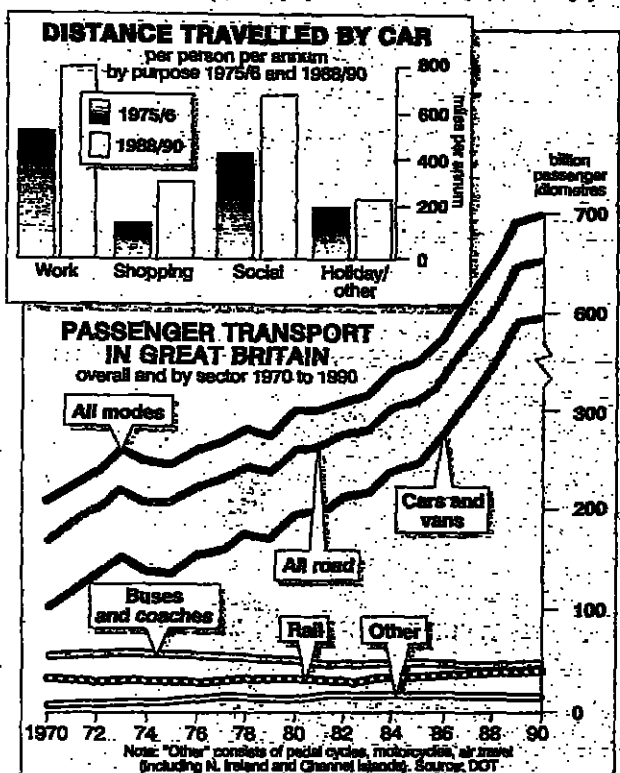
Sir Crispin said yesterday that the panel, which will have direct access to the Prime Minister and secretaries of state, will be helping to set short and long-term targets that will help to deliver more sustainable living.

Such targets could include the levels of cars that should be allowed on the roads versus the levels of public transport.

Jonathan Porritt, the environmentalist, said later: "In one respect today is reassuring because the Government has recommitted itself to the level of rhetoric that it committed itself to at Rio."

"But environmental organisations have a genuine grievance that there has been no substantiation of targets and timetables. Without those, in all honesty, it is possible to imagine a sequence of these meetings stretching from here to eternity without delivering the goods."

Leading article, page 17



Car firms seek cash for public transport

By Kevin Eason, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

A HUGE investment in public transport, not punitive taxes to force cars off the road, was needed to cut congestion and pollution, leaders of Britain's motor industry said yesterday.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders warned MPs that hasty legislation could damage Britain's biggest manufacturing industry, on which almost one million jobs depended, as it recovered from recession. They called for a co-ordinated policy, including measures to improve public transport.

Parliamentary select committee members were told that the biggest problem fac-

ing the South East came from car commuters forced to use public transport as a result of higher rail fares, lack of buses and fear of crime.

Roger King, the society's director of public affairs, said: "The Government must not get hung up on an argument involving four miles of the M25. The issue of congestion is one that affects all the South East."

He said the penalty was clogged and polluted roads. In Hertfordshire, the county with the most cars per head of population, planners claim that if all 600,000 cars took to the road together they would have only 26ft of space each.

FROM CURLEW TO DORMOUSE, PROTECTION IS THE PLEA



The stone curlew (*Burhinus oedipus*), top, is very rare. It nests on chalky grassland, much of which has been destroyed by farming. Salisbury Plain is an important refuge because the Army has kept farming at bay. The target is to raise numbers from 160 to 200 pairs by 2000 and re-establish the dormouse (*Muscardinus avellan-*

arius) has gone from much of Northern and Eastern England and is fading elsewhere due to loss of ancient coppiced woodland. The aim is to protect populations and introduce the dormouse to 10 woodland sites in the next 10 years. Three quarters of burnt-tip orchids (*Orchis ustulata*), which grow best on lightly grazed, semi-

natural chalk and limestone grassland, have been lost in the past 50 years. The orchid cannot survive ploughing, herbicides and fertilisers. The target is to halt decline by protecting habitats. Britain is home to 80 per cent of the world's gamets (*Morus bassanus*), which live on coastal cliffs and islands. Target:

maintain existing 160,000 pairs in 14 colonies. Conservation plans are also proposed for the natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*), the rarest native amphibian; the Scots primrose (*Primula scotica*); and the greater horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus ferrugineus*), of which there are only 3,000 in 12 sites in South Wales and southwest England.

Task force nurtures endangered habitats

By Michael Hornsby and Nick Nuttall

A STRATEGY for the long-term conservation of Britain's threatened wild plants and animals and the habitats that sustain them is outlined in the *Biodiversity Action Plan*.

A task force will publish programmes next year for preserving and restoring species and habitats. Targets will be set for 2000 and 2010.

The strategy says top priority should be given to conserving British plants and animals that are globally threatened or which are unique to Britain. It

calls for protection plans to be put into effect "for at least 90 per cent of the presently known globally threatened and threatened endemic species within the next 10 years".

Some 6,600 animals are classified as globally threatened. Twenty-four of these are in Britain, including the European otter, three birds of the red kite, the corn crane and the white-tailed eagle and a range of freshwater fish, beetles, snails and dragonflies.

Another conservation target

will be species that occur in globally significant proportions in Britain, which is home to half the world's grey seals, 60 per cent of gamets, 30 per cent of bluebells and 25 per cent of fungi.

Although the plan commits the Government to conserve and restore hedgerows, there is no mention of an earlier government promise to introduce legislation that would prevent farmers digging up hedges without authorisation. The Government intends to

return the nation's emissions of carbon dioxide, the gas linked with global warming, to 1990 levels by 2000 through a mixture of taxes and energy efficiency schemes, most already announced.

This would be enough to meet Britain's commitments under the Climate Change Convention. But environmentalists had hoped the Government would announce cuts beyond the end of the century.

Measures include VAT on domestic fuel bills, a revision of the building regulations to strengthen energy efficiency and energy advice centres.

Transport is expected to cut its emissions by 2.5 million tonnes through increases in fuel taxes.

The document expects the population of Britain to grow more slowly in coming decades and stabilise at about 62 million by 2030, compared with 57.6 million now. The number of households will grow by 14 per cent to 26 million by 2012 because more people are choosing to live in smaller groups or separately.

This will reinforce the need for more efficient use of natural resources and more recycling of waste.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Adams on the brink

AS EXPECTED, by exercise of filigree endgame technique, Michael Adams won his celebrated fifth game against Belorussian grandmaster Boris Gelfand in the Fide matches at Wijk aan Zee. Trailing by one point, Adams must win one of his last two games and draw the other to remain in contention.

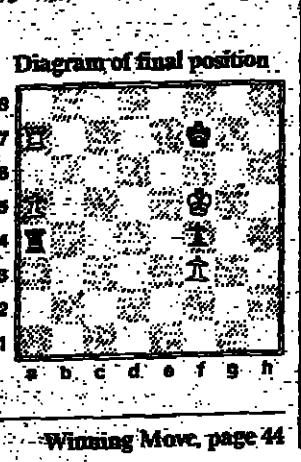
White: Michael Adams.
Black: Boris Gelfand.

Fide Candidates, Game 5
Wijk aan Zee January 1994

Sicilian Defence

1. e4 c5
2. g3 d5
3. g4 Nf6
4. Bc3 cxd4
5. cxd4 g6
6. Nc3 Bg7
7. h3 0-0
8. Nf3 e5
9. dxe5 Nxe5
10. 0-0 Bxe5
11. Be3 Bxe5
12. Bxe5 Bxe5
13. Qe2 a6
14. Bc3 Qc5
15. Rf1 Rf8
16. Rac1 Bc7
17. Na4 Nc7
18. Bc4 Bc7
19. Qxc4 Rxc7
20. Rxc7 Rxc7
21. Nc3 Bc7
22. Nc4 Bc7
23. Bc4 Bc7
24. Rxc4 Rxc7
25. Kf2 Ne5
26. Rf5 g5
27. Rf2 g5
28. Kg3 g4
29. h4 Nf5
30. Kf4 Nf5
31. B3 Nf5
32. Kg3 Nf5
33. Nc5 Nf5

34. Kf4 Nf5
35. Kg3 Nf5
36. Rf2 Nf5
37. Nc3 Nf5
38. Kf4 Nf5
39. Kg3 Nf5
40. Kd2 Nf5
41. Nc6 Nf5
42. e5 Nf5
43. Rxe5 Nf5
44. Kf4 Nf5
45. Rf4 Nf5
46. Kf2 Nf5
47. Rf4 Nf5
48. Kf1 Nf5
49. Kg1 Nf5
50. Kf2 Nf5
51. Rf5 Nf5
52. Rf4 Nf5
53. g3 Nf5
54. Kg3 Nf5
55. Rf5 Nf5
56. Rf5 Nf5
57. Bf4 Nf5
58. Rf5 Nf5
59. Rf5 Nf5
60. Rf5 Nf5
61. Rf5 Nf5
62. Kf2 Nf5
63. Rf5 Nf5
64. Rf5 Nf5
65. Rf5 Nf5
66. Rf5 Nf5
67. Kf3 Nf5
68. Kg4 Nf5
69. Kg5 Nf5
70. Kg5 Nf5
71. Rf5 Nf5
72. Rf5 Nf5
73. Kf5 Nf5
74. Rf5 Nf5
75. Rf7 Nf5



Winning Move, page 44

Looking to the next generation

By Nick Nuttall, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SUSTAINABLE development is fast becoming the buzz phrase of the 1990s as countries across the globe attempt to meet commitments agreed at the Earth Summit in Brazil in 1992.

While the concept of sustainable development is far from new — fishermen and foresters have traditionally tried to balance catches and harvests to allow for natural replenishment — applying it to a sophisticated modern economy is more challenging.

At one end of the spectrum, radical "greens" believe that only dramatic changes in lifestyle can save the planet: living in mud huts, growing vegetables, travelling on foot.

On the other hand, free market economists argue that controls are unnecessary: when resources such as oil are plundered the price rises and alternative forms of energy generation, such as wind or water, become attractive.

John Cridland, environmental director at the CBI, said yesterday that sustainable development "is about the inheritance we leave. The principle is that the net effect of man's uses of the planet now does not lessen the natural resources for the next generation. It is a goal you will never reach but is something to aim at."

David Bellamy, the botanist and writer, believes it is crucial to save energy to make sustainable development work. He said: "There are two billion people who live in the rich first world and they use 80 per cent of the energy. Studies have shown they could save 40 per cent of that without reducing their standard of living, a process that would create mil-

lions of new jobs in the energy efficiency industry."

Dr Bellamy said sustainable development was also about cutting population growth so that resources were not depleted at the current alarming rates.

It also made sure that land was managed in a sensible way: a third of the world's potentially productive land is threatened by desertification.

David Pearce, professor of environmental economics at University College London, believes true sustainable development will only be achieved when governments and industry recognise that growth can be achieved by using less rather than more resources.

Professor Pearce said it was estimated that Britain spends up to £3 billion a year repairing the damage caused by acid rain from power stations, while fitting equipment to remove sulphur dioxide to all power stations might cost about £1.4 billion.

Dr Robert Baxter, conservation officer for the Kent branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, illustrated the concept of sustainable development through the county's water supplies. He said: "We are in a low rainfall area with the threat of increasing development pressure with the end of the recession — the opening of the Channel tunnel, the creation of the East Thames corridor and the growth in golf courses. The planning system needs to address this. Development should only go ahead if a sustainable water resource is available."

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The Muslims continue to

In addition to this new military muscle, Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian Prime Minister, repeated his request to President Clinton yesterday for the United States to lead a bombing raid against Bosnian Serb positions around Sarajevo. Given

That means the Muslims' strongest card is their new-found military confidence. But their hand is vulnerable. The Serbo-Croat agreement signed last week between

This imperative felt by Serbs and Croats is leading to ever greater military co-operation between the Bosnian Serbs and Croats. Despite



Bosnian government.

"If the Bosnians really are able to win this war and create an army capable of smashing the Serbs and Croats, then good luck to them," one Geneva conference official said. "But if this is wrong, which I fear it is, then the Muslims are just going to have to lose more and more — as they have done throughout the history of the peace negotiations."

REFERENCES

Russia also wants Dr Boutros Ghali to report on the situation in Bosnia to determine who is to blame for the continuing bloodshed. Mr Churkin said Russia would press for a Security Council resolution providing for strict

HMS Ark Royal leaving Portsmouth yesterday for the Adriatic on her second mission in support of the UN Protection Force in Bosnia

In Paris, Alain Juppé, the Foreign Minister, and other officials made clear that they see Washington as the main

obstacle to a renewed effort to force the warring parties to accept a division of Bosnia into three ethnic states. Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, told M. Mitterrand and French ministers on Monday that Washington did not accept their call to bring American pressure to bear on the Bosnian government to halt its advances against Serbs and Croats. Washington believed the Muslims of Bosnia had a moral right to fight back. Earlier, M. Juppé told *The New*

The mood in London and Paris, meanwhile, seemed to be nudging away from an

Nato leaders renewed threats two weeks ago to use air strikes to force the re-open-

ing of Fuzia airport, relieve trapped Canadian troops in Srebrenica, and prevent strangulation of Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital.

□ **Zagreb:** Croatian customs officials said yesterday that they would charge the captain of *Sir Geraint*, a Royal Navy transport ship, with violating customs regulations after finding arms and munitions on board. Britain has blamed the incident on Monday on an admitted mistake in paperwork by the UN. (Reuters)

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN:

The demand is prompted partly by the mainstream parties' need to guard their flanks from the new anti-Maastricht party set up at the

This new assertiveness has been demonstrated on a range of issues: Germany insisted on compensation for its farmers for the revaluation of the mark; it struck an informal non-aggression pact on telecommunications with the United States; and it pressed hard for state subsidies for the

□ **Munich:** Roman Herzog, 59, Germany's top judge, has entered the race to succeed President von Weizsäcker. He is backed by Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democrats, and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union. (Reuters)

Chicago: After 45 years of

"The issue of divorce is one that many officers grapple with, and it is sometimes referred to as 'an occupational hazard,'" Tribune Media Services, which syndicates the comic strip, said. One report cites the rate at 84 per cent among officers in the United States. (AP)

[illegible]

Број: 24/1991

The Northern League abandoned its plan for the division of Italy into three in return for

Members of the Popular

million (£80.5 million) railway network in Peru to plunder overseas aid for his Socialist Party's coffers. (AP)

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Tattooed lady draws a royal confession in Sydney



The Prince in a fireman's helmet given to him in Sydney yesterday

FROM ALAN HAMILTON
IN SYDNEY

THE Prince of Wales spent the first full day of his Australian tour yesterday lecturing businessmen on the dangers of polluting Asia and meeting victims of the recent Sydney bush fires.

The appearance of a tattooed lady provided an unexpected bonus — and a confession. Alissa, 20, a former heroin addict, had a nose stud, punkish blonde hair, six earrings and a veritable gallery of the tattooist's art on her skin — from skulls to flames and the names of several males.

As the Prince approached she hitched up her purple skirt with matching purple fingernails and none too discreetly parked her cigarette packet in a garter on her thigh. Her hands free, she greeted the Prince, who was visiting the Sydney City Mission where she was one of 7,000 homeless young people cared for each year. He had asked to see the mission to compare it with similar work done by the Prince's Trust in Britain.

The Prince noted that she had picked up

many tattoos along her rocky road in life and was told that she had spent the equivalent of £1,000 having her body indelibly decorated.

Then he made his confession to her: "I was thinking of getting a tattoo when I was in the Navy. I had a friend who had an eagle on his chest. I really liked it, but I never got round to it."

Once the Prince had moved on, Alissa made two confessions of her own which she thought it would have been impolite to raise with the future king: she had other tattoos in places she preferred not to mention and, worse, she was a republican. The Prince appeared to have enjoyed his encounter, determined to recapture the high ground of contact with the less advantaged once so securely held by his estranged wife.

Respectably large and enthusiastic crowds of devoted monarchists, blocked the pavements at his various venues yesterday, guaranteeing him his desired personal contact with ordinary Australians. At the gates of the New South Wales Parliament House, devoted fans shouted "Good old Charlie" and "Here's to the

next King of Australia". Middle-aged women were on the verge of swooning — and not only because of the 82° F mid-morning temperature.

In the cooler atmosphere inside, the Prince addressed some of Australia's most prominent businessmen, gathered under the umbrella of his International Business Leaders' Forum. The topic was how to protect Asia's environment while exploiting one of the fastest growing economic regions in history.

"We ignore at our peril the simple facts that throughout Asia much of the land, water and air is being poisoned from unbridled development pressure, and that many of the region's population lack such basic amenities as reliable drinking water and access to education," the Prince said.

He then turned to the Olympic Games of 2000. Told by Nick Greiner, the former New South Wales Premier who launched Sydney's successful bid for the Games, that they would probably just about break even, the Prince retorted: "Come on, it's only because my sister switched allegiance that you got the Games" — a

reference to the Princess Royal's voting pattern on the International Olympic Committee.

Later, the Prince entertained victims and firefighters of the Sydney bush fires on the lawn of the Governor-General's official residence at Admiralty House, a property to whose situation overlooking Sydney Harbour not even the most hyperbolic estate agent could do full justice. The Prince had offered to visit the victims' burnt-out houses in the worst hit areas but had been advised that they had had more than enough visitors poking around the ashes.

The victims he met, however, told him otherwise, assuring him that after the ice cream vans and the ghouls with video cameras who descended on the first day, his presence would have been more than welcome.

The Prince then retired for an evening drink with Paul Keating, the Prime Minister, and his wife Anita — where no curtsying took place and where no offence was taken at its absence.

Photograph, page 24



A royal admirer shows her appreciation of the prince

Algerian radicals snub peace conference

Algeria's Mediterranean neighbours are growing ever more nervous. As fundamentalist pressure intensifies, the slide continues towards civil war

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ALGIERS

ALGERIA lurched closer to all-out civil war yesterday after a state-sponsored national reconciliation conference was snubbed by Muslim fundamentalists who are killing foreigners to attempt to precipitate the collapse of the secular francophone government.

Rabah Kherir, a spokesman for the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), said the gathering was a waste of time designed to give legitimacy to a new puppet regime sponsored by the Soviet-trained army officer elite. Observers said the absence of the four parties that showed best in the December 1991 elections promised a further deterioration in the security situation in the oil-producing state.

The initial failure of the conference was a blow to morale for thousands of expatriates who have remained in Algeria despite a November 30 deadline set by the FIS for all foreigners to leave the North African country or face "execution". So far 15 foreigners have been killed by gunmen in attacks blamed on the fundamentalists. Malcolm Vincent, a British technician, was killed last month when he strayed out of his foreigners' compound to buy petrol.

Up to 3,000 people have been killed in what Western observers believe is an undeclared civil war that will only be recognised as such with Lebanon and Iran. Diplomats estimate between ten and 15 people are killed every day in skirmishes.

Algeria is highly dependent on foreign expertise and technology for exploitation of its extensive natural resources, including oil and natural gas. Thousands of foreign workers and their families fled the country at Christmas and only about 300 Britons are believed to remain, lured by high-paying jobs in the oil and engineering industries.

The latest murder attributed to the fundamentalists was that of a Jewish Tunisian optician shot at his shop in central Algiers on Sunday. Diplomats say that the murdered foreigners have been carefully selected, sometimes because they were involved in smuggling. Monique Afri, a French consular official, was killed last week after thou-

sands of requests for visas to France were rejected. The hotel housing foreign journalists covering the reconciliation conference has armed police officers on each floor of bedrooms around the clock. Armed police lined the 15-mile motorway route from Algiers to the conference venue at the Club des Pins seaside resort, anti-terrorist commandos were in nearby woods, and a navy frigate is cruising along the coast. On the eve of the conference, sporadic shooting broke out around the embassy quarter of Algiers, an area that previously has been spared the gun battles between security forces and fundamentalist guerrillas that erupt every night in other parts of the capital.

The conference is being watched by the governments in Tunisia, Morocco and Libya, who are worried that an Islamic fundamentalist revolution would have a domino effect on their virtual totalitarian states. France, Italy and Spain also are concerned at the prospect of an influx of immigrants from a fundamentalist-controlled Algeria and the possibility of losing influence and interests in the Maghreb.

Political analysts say the likely failure of the conference could give the army an excuse for assuming direct rule of the country. Senior officers are believed to be divided over whether to negotiate with the fundamentalists, whose leaders are in jail and have refused to negotiate with the government.

The conference was designed to do little more than rubber-stamp a new presidency of the High Council of State as a cover for continued military control of Algeria, diplomatic sources said. This would mean there would be no more progress towards democracy than when the military cancelled a second round of polls in January 1992 after FIS took a decisive lead in the first round in December 1991.

"The political chess board will be a little empty this morning," the semi-independent daily *L'Express* predicted yesterday. "With the very disquieting sensation that the worst is hovering over the country and that it threatens to fall on us at any moment."

Multimillion-dollar payment likely in return for dropping of charges



Michael Jackson, with a scarf over his face, in Monaco with Jordan Chandler, 14. The boy was accompanying the singer at an awards ceremony there in 1993

Jackson ready to settle sex claim out of court

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A KEY chapter in the sex-abuse scandal that has plagued Michael Jackson for months was coming to a close last night, with the pop star ready to pay a multi-million-dollar, out-of-court settlement to his 14-year-old accuser.

On the day the case was due to be heard in a Santa Monica courthouse, lawyers for Jackson and Jordan Chandler, 14, the boy who claims the star molested him, called a much anticipated press conference at which they were expected to announce that charges had been dropped in return for an undisclosed sum. Under the agreement, most of the money paid by Jackson is expected to be placed in a trust fund for the boy.

Feverish speculation about a pre-emptive settlement began on January 14, when lawyers for both sides met in chambers with Superior Court Judge David Rothman. Jackson's lawyer, Johnnie Cochran, issued a vehement denial last week that any deal was in the offing following a report in a British tabloid newspaper of an imminent £30-million payment to Jordan's family.

However, Mr Cochran and Larry Feldman, Jordan's lawyer, met again last Thursday. Jackson and his sister, La Toya, had both been due to give sworn testimony in advance of the civil case earlier in the week. Neither deposition took place, fueling rumours that the lawyers were working to head off the court case altogether.

Sources interviewed by the *Los Angeles Times* forecast a payment of from \$10 million (£6.6 million) to \$100 million,

though a story in this week's edition of *Time* magazine put the figure closer to \$5 million. An out-of-court settlement in the case against Jackson would, neither, quash suspicions that he has something to hide, nor prevent district attorneys in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, where Jackson has his Neverland ranch, from going ahead with the criminal prosecution which could lead to trial by jury.

Commentators on the case are divided into fans who believe their idol is innocent of all the charges and others who regard the eight-figure sums being talked of as hush money. "If I was innocent of a charge like this, I'd fight it like hell," said Ken Schlessler, author of *This is Hollywood*, a guide to showbiz scandals.

Against Jackson, but issued a statement on Monday stating he may still do so.

The entertainer vehemently denied any wrongdoing and earlier vowed to clear his name. Jordan alleged that Jackson showered him with gifts and then seduced him, telling him their relationship was "in the cosmos".

In a separate development, extortion charges against Jordan's father, a dentist and aspiring screenwriter, were dropped yesterday. Jackson's advisers have always claimed that the child abuse allegations were an extortion attempt. A private investigator, Anthony Pellicano, who worked for Jackson for several months last year, claimed that the father once offered to drop the case in return for a deal in which he would be paid \$20 million for four screenplays.



Jackson with Blanca Francis when she was his housekeeper. She said she saw naked boys

US naval exam cheats rock boat

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

MORE than 100 midshipmen have been implicated in a cheating scandal at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, after an investigation by the Navy's Inspector-General, which has now been taken over by the Pentagon.

A report released yesterday into the worst cheating incident in the academy's history stated that 133 midshipmen out of 700 in 1992 had an early look at an electrical engineering examination. More than half the accused confessed, while the rest "repeatedly lied until confronted with the irrefutable proof of their involvement", the report said.

The academy was removed from further involvement in the investigation after the

report of the Inspector-General showed many midshipmen believed the initial enquiry was skewed by favouritism. "The majority of midshipmen interviewed did not feel the truth was found or even seriously sought," it said.

Rear Admiral Thomas Lynch, the academy's superintendent, was accused by midshipmen of particularly lenient treatment towards a football player, who also happened to be the son of his best friend, and who had dined with the superintendent the night before a hearing into his conduct.

Pentagon officials and two independent boards will review the cases before deciding on disciplinary action.

Cold War marshal who defended shooting-down of Korean jet dies

FROM REUTERS IN MOSCOW

NIKOLAI Ogarkov, one of the last marshals of the Soviet Union and the man who defended the 1983 shooting-down of a South Korean airliner, has died aged 76.

Marshal Ogarkov was Chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces and First Deputy Defence Minister for more than seven years. He was abruptly removed in 1984 in circumstances that stirred speculation that he had fallen into disgrace. But he emerged months later co-ordinating Soviet troop operations in Eastern Europe.

Krasnaya Zvezda, the armed forces newspaper, said he had died on Sunday after a long illness. His obituary was

signed by Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, and by Viktor Kulikov, now the last surviving full marshal.

Marshal Ogarkov, one of the most highly decorated Soviet officers, remained loyal to the end to the Communist Party. When Boris Yeltsin, shortly after his political comeback, denounced the party at a congress in 1990, Marshal Ogarkov denounced him bitterly. "He (Mr Yeltsin) was brought up in the party and suddenly he just throws it all up and leaves," he said.

But Marshal Ogarkov was best known for his appearance at a news conference in September 1983, called amid international uproar over the

shooting down by Soviet fighters of a Korean Air Lines Boeing 747 over the Russian Far East. All 269 people on board were killed.

The news conference was unprecedented, coming almost two years before Mikhail Gorbachev assumed power, and introduced "glasnost". Marshal Ogarkov rejected any notion of Soviet guilt. He strode confidently around the stage of the Foreign Ministry press centre waving a pointer towards a map of the Far East with the route of the airliner marked on it. Flight KAL 007, he said, had strayed from its agreed route on what Soviet authorities believed to be a spying mission.

The marshal appeared to have been no blind servant of his party, and was said to have expressed reservations about the full-scale invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979 which resulted in almost 10 years of war. He had argued for a more limited operation.

The marshal's *History Teaches Us Vigilance*, written in 1985, portrayed the Soviet Union and Socialist bloc as the leading force for world peace and the United States of the then President Reagan as an "imperialist" power coldly weighing a nuclear strike against his country.

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Indians of
deal for Ka

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use of force to
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Indians offer Pakistan deal for Kashmir peace

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN DELHI

INDIA has made significant proposals to Pakistan to end 47 years of hostility and bring peace to Kashmir. Delhi is ready to give up the futile but costly conflict for control of the Siachen Glacier in the Himalayas, establish a "peace and tranquillity line" between Indian and Pakistani-held Kashmir, and sign a no-first-use pledge on nuclear weapons.

Islamabad, in an aggressive mood towards India under the leadership of Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, may not be ready to seize what is regarded by Delhi as an exceptional peace overture.

Senior Indian policymakers are saying privately that Delhi is prepared to go much further than its public proposals in seeking a peaceful end to the four-year Kashmir uprising. In return, Pakistan would be expected to stop arming Muslim separatists.

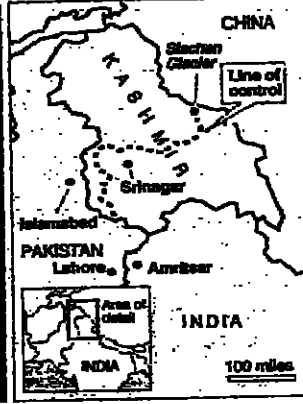
India would be prepared, for example — although it would not yet admit it publicly — to sign a deal with Pakistan turning the present 1949 ceasefire line in Kashmir into an international border, effectively ending each other's territorial claims over the former kingdom. Pakistan, determined to gain control of the largely Muslim Kashmir valley, would almost certainly reject that idea.

The Indian overture comes as efforts are under way to try

■ The prospect of an accord including an end to a futile glacier conflict may not be enough for Benazir Bhutto. She is anxious not to be seen as soft on Delhi



Benazir Bhutto wants Pakistanis to go on strike over Kashmir. She rejected a Siachen accord this month



to hold elections in the Kashmir valley, which militants have threatened to disrupt. The last poll seven years ago was rigged, as admitted privately by senior Indian policymakers, ensuring that pro-India parties retained control.

Persuading the 70-odd militant groups in the valley to give up their fight will be equally difficult unless Pakistan stops flooding the valley with arms and ammunition.

The pro-independence Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, which started the uprising, seems ready to compromise with Delhi — an encouraging development, since it is by far the most popular group among Kashmiri Muslims.

Miss Bhutto, who returned to power in a general election last October, launched a tirade against India on Monday. She declared that Kashmir was the "jugular vein of Pakistan" and that the day would all be part of Pakistan.

She summoned a national strike on February 5 in support of a demand for a plebiscite to determine Indian Kashmir's future. But contrary to her assertion, Kashmiri Muslims have no desire to join Pakistan. They insist that a plebiscite must include the option of independence.

Delhi, which described Miss Bhutto's comments as stupid, has ignored recent anti-India speeches in the hope of improving the atmosphere in the run-up to its peace offer. It was a vain hope. Miss Bhutto is worried about being perceived as soft on India, a charge that wounded her in her first term as Prime Minister.

She could have authorised peace in Siachen this month when talks resumed after a break of several years, since both the Pakistani and Indian armies have agreed on locations to which their troops could withdraw. Neither army has any interest in continuing the conflict, fought in cruel conditions at 20,000ft on the world's highest battlefield.

Pakistan refused to sign the deal, arguing that it must be part of an overall peace settlement in Kashmir. Delhi was stunned. It had hoped Miss Bhutto's decisive electoral victory would embolden her to sign the pact in the face of right-wing opposition.

□ Rawalpindi: Miss Bhutto, in a symbolic start to provide justice to women in a conservative male-dominated society, opened Pakistan's first all-women police station in this Punjab town with an appeal to them to hunt down criminals who abuse women. (Reuters)



A plain-clothes policeman in Seoul seizing a knife from a South Korean who was forced to give sexual services as a "comfort girl" for Japanese soldiers during the Second World War. The woman was one of three who tried to commit suicide during a protest outside the Japanese embassy to demand compensation from Tokyo. Her headband reads "Death or life". All three suicide attempts were prevented by onlookers and the women were last night said to be in a stable condition. Morihiro Hosokawa, the Japanese Prime Minister, last year apologised to Seoul but compensation was not discussed. The Seoul incident took place as eight

Dutch people, including a former "comfort woman", filed for damages in a Tokyo court, demanding £14,500 compensation each for alleged wartime abuses. They said they still suffered trauma from the torture, forced labour and brutality in concentration camps set up by the Japanese army in Indonesia. (Reuters)

De Klerk pledges use of force to ensure fair poll

FROM MICHAEL HAMLEN IN PRETORIA

PRESIDENT de Klerk yesterday promised that his government was prepared to use force if necessary to ensure freedom and fairness in the elections.

Earlier, more than 3,600 men of all races formed a peacekeeping force to control the violence between the transition to majority rule. The group, drawn from the South African Defence Force and police, the African National Congress's guerrilla army, and from Transkei, Venda and Ciskei homelands, will undergo training, culminating in a course on low-intensity warfare. Its main task is to restore peace in black communities.

The force will fall under the aegis of the multi-racial Transitional Executive Council, which announced yesterday that the election will take place over three days from April 27 to April 29. Mr de Klerk insisted that he was not willing to "use strongarm tactics to storm into things and start breaking down existing lawful institutions". He protested about the behaviour of ANC supporters, who have interrupted his tours of townships, preventing him from putting his message across.

"I have the right," he said, "to go there to tell them that they are now dealing with a new National Party, that they

are now dealing with a party which has scrapped all that apartheid. I have the right to go and tell them to stop believing the ANC propaganda that I am a white leader, speaking on behalf of whites. I am not the leader of a non-racial party and I have suppressed it in my heart."

Mr de Klerk signed a declaration that his party would discipline any member who intimidated workers of any other party, challenging ANC leaders to do the same.

He said that if the council, which is charged with ensuring a level playing field, sought the co-operation of the government Pretoria would be ready to oblige. If it was "necessary for the government to become logistically involved, whether through security forces or whatever, we will make such logistics available". But when challenged to say what the government would do to ensure the ANC got a fair hearing in KwaZulu and Bophuthatswana, he backed away from promising the use of force.

□ London: Chief Emeka Anyanwu, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, has sent two emissaries to Lesotho to negotiate an end to the military uprising and arrange talks between the government and rebels.

Freedom beckons for bandit queen

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

PHOOLAN Devi, India's "bandit queen" glorified in books and films for her battles with the rich and powerful, may be released soon after 11 years in jail.

Devi, who is said to be seriously ill, is a symbol for India's repressed low castes, who are wielding political power for the first time in the northern Hindu heartland. Her release, like her prolonged detention, is politically inspired. Her gang was accused of killing 20 of the high Thakur caste



Devi: heroine of the repressed low castes

in Uttar Pradesh, which until state elections in November was dominated by Brahmins and other powerful castes. The state government, now controlled by low castes, has announced that all remaining charges against Devi, in her thirties, are being dropped.

Her gang was said to have terrorised high castes in three states in the 1970s and early 1980s. These stories have grown with the telling and she has been turned into a cult figure, much to her own discomfort. She has said repeatedly that she wants to return to a quiet rural life.

Devi should have been released long ago under an agreement but the powerful Thakurs engineered her continued detention and her release will be seen as another insult to higher castes at the hands of their perceived inferiors, threatening further tension.

She rejected a ticket to run in state elections last year in a statement expressing contempt for politicians. "They are all dogs. They use my name. Last time they fooled me, but not this time," she said.

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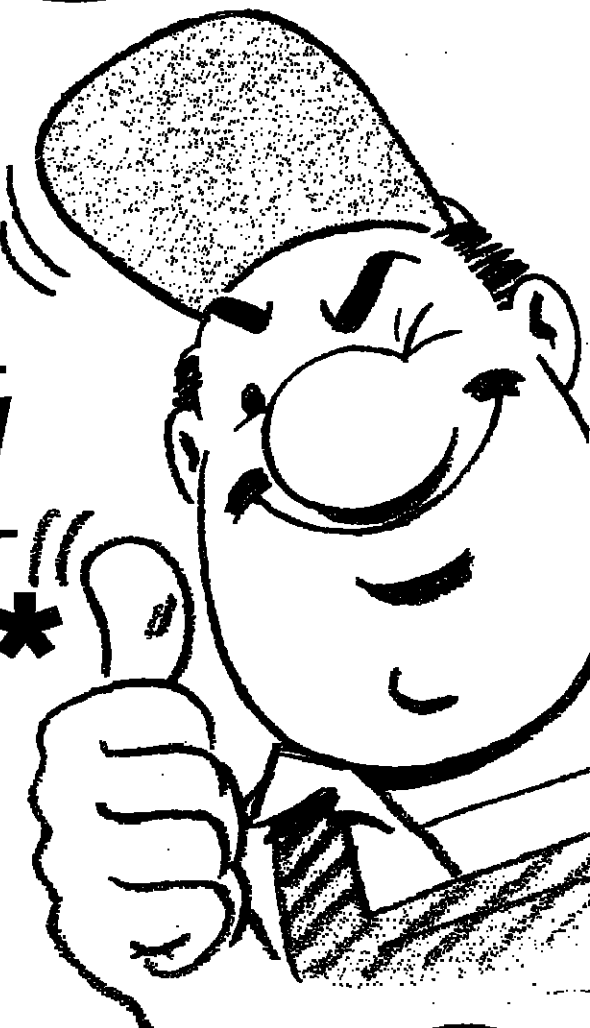
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The county that fell off the back of a lorry

Let me tear your attention away, for a moment, from the underground traumas of Kent, the gritty pride of the restored Yorkshire Ridings and the brave but doomed attempt of nice Mr Pendragon, the Hampshire Druid, to get out of paying council tax on his flat in Farnborough. Think about Essex, instead.

Essex needs us right now because it is undergoing an identity crisis. Fed up with jokesmiths traducing the purity of its girls and deeply shallow political theories being pinned on to its men, the county is demanding a new image.

The newly formed Essex Tourism Authority has launched a competition for a name which would help to establish it as "a regional attraction, like the Lake District or the Cotswolds". Why, they demand, should Hardy's Wessex and Brontë country get all

the glamour? Not to mention the barefaced self-promotion of an age when Granadaland can construct itself out of old hairnets. Lincolnshire can bag *Middlemarch* on the grounds that it was the location for the television series, and the dullest lump of Midlands can wake up to find itself boldly labelled "The Archers' Borseshire".

There are Kingdoms and Riveras springing up all over the place at the behest of local tourist boards, and no fewer than three places squabbling over Dracula's castle. Essex must be helped to join in. Never mind that even the local paper which broke the news of the competition did so in a typically mixed column, sandwiching the founding of the Essex Shakespeare Company between the somewhat downbeat information that Mersea Island has been named Britain's eleventh dirtiest beach, and

Essex, butt of countless cruel jokes, wants a new image to lure the tourists, and we must all stop sniggering and help

that a debt-collector was shot point-blank in a café near Basildon at the weekend. All modern British life is here: sewage, shootings, Shakespeare and hype. They should name it Microcosmia.

Mind you, the competition entrants face some tricky decisions. Comparisons with the Lake District are all very well, but before rushing to the waterside for inspiration it might be best to ask yourself whether it is really wise for Burnham and Brightlingsea to be named the Mud District.

Actually, it is very nice mud, home to endless wading and dabbling birds, and those with a taste for east-coast yachting grow extremely fond of it and write lyrical passages about "the fat



LIBBY PURVES

brown bubbles of the returning tide". But the marketing men might groan.

As for "Oysterland" or "Home of the Thames Barge" or "Arthur Ransome's Secret Water Kingdom", these are indeed accurate and picturesque images, but they

leave out the hinterland. All canny tourists know you should never trust a region which boasts ceaselessly about its coast and doesn't mention the rest.

Nor is there a range of hills complete with poet: Dodie Smith and Dorothy L. Sayers did indeed both live there, but that does not exactly add up to a Romantic movement. All in all, the most fertile ground for romance is history, not literature. Already, if you happen to take the ferry from Ose to Harwich, you will find it full of excited Norwegians and Danes all audibly looking forward to "Colchester" with many an excited jab at the guidebook: they do not bother to go to London on these weekend jaunts, not only

because they know that Colchester shopping is dead chic (it is, actually), but because its castle has a keep not only older, but bigger than the White Tower in London. "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" was written in Lavenham, near Colchester, so there. A Norwegian told me that. And Samuel Pepys was MP for Harwich, which happens also to be where the *Mayflower* sailed from long before Plymouth.

And then you have the Dumfries Kinch ceremony, mentioned in the *Canterbury Tales* and revived in 1854, in which a lump of bacon is given to a harmoniously married couple.

Moreover, the first known comedy script was written by an appalling man called Nicholas Udall, who was vicar of Brantree in the 1530s and later sacked as headmaster of Eton for brutality. It is called "Ralph Roister Doister".

and is no worse than most other comedy scripts.

See? We are getting there. *Land of the Flitch and the Ferryboat... Twinkling County of Castles and Comedy...* And we have not even got round to Matthew Hopkins, the witchfinder-general who was himself ducked and hanged at Manningtree, and serve him right; nor the Battle of Maldon in 991, when the Northmen killed Ealdorman Byrhtnoth with a poisoned spear (presumably maddened by the lack of time to shop in Colchester before catching the boat back to Oslo). The slogans keep on coming. *Land of War and Witchcraft!*

Keep on trying: for we walk on many bones, here in England, and not one inch of any county is short of piquant history. We may not be much good at learning from it, but we daily get better at selling the stuff.

Was America's superwoman a spy in the sky?

Feminists are claiming Amelia Earhart as a role model.

Ben Macintyre examines the latest twist of the myth

Amelia Earhart's life was always the stuff of fantasy, so her disappearance over the South Pacific in July 1937 inevitably became the province of conspiracy theorists, then and ever since.

Only the death of John F. Kennedy has spawned more extravagant speculation than the fate of America's beloved 39-year-old aviatrix and her Lockheed Electra aircraft, lost as she attempted a record-breaking round-the-world flight.

According to the myriad theories assembled over the intervening half-century Earhart simply ran out of fuel and drowned at sea (the official version), landed on an atoll and died of thirst or lived out the war in a desert island paradise or Japanese captivity. A 1992 expedition to the South Pacific unearthed a size nine shoe and a fragment of aircraft, supposedly part of the Electra, but the shoe did not match Earhart's size six and that theory, like an ugly sister, had to be rejected.

One of the more outlandish hypotheses had Earhart alive and well and living in New Jersey under the name Irene Craig Bolam in 1970, another theory that crashed in flames when the real Irene Bolam sued.

The latest explanation

comes after 13 years of research by flying expert and aviation historian Randall Brink, who claims that Earhart was not just a pin-up girl and adventurer but also a spy for the US government. The Electra, Brink believes, was fitted with hidden cameras by Earhart as part of a secret mission to photograph the Japanese military build-up in the Marshall Islands. When

Earhart was packaged by a publisher, who marketed and married her

Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan failed to land on the tiny airstrip at Howland Island, Brink writes, they were forced down by the Japanese, arrested as spies, imprisoned and, perhaps, executed. The evidence for government involvement in Earhart's mission collected by Brink in his book *Lost Star: The search for Amelia Earhart* is intriguing, if not completely convincing. Engineers say that Earhart switched to another

Lockheed aircraft which could fly faster, higher and had holes cut in the interior to accommodate cameras. There is a photograph of Earhart apparently taking an oath of allegiance to the US military (do spies take such oaths and if so, do they allow pictures?). Certainly, the US military appears to have provided the Earhart mission with substantial help, financial and technical, which Brink interprets as evidence of espionage but others might see as proof of Roosevelt's canny appreciation of the benefits of boosting public morale with what was a fairly pointless stunt.

When Brink moves to the subsequent fate of Earhart and Noonan, the line becomes more tenuous: a photograph of the aviatrix apparently taken by a Saipanese native four months after she officially disappeared; claims by two brothers that they helped to unload the damaged plane on the Japanese island of Tarao from the seaplane tender "Kamoi"; various scattered sightings of a white female pilot or "American spy lady"; and a number of radio messages attributed to Earhart after her aircraft vanished.

The author makes much of a 1938 telephone conversation between the White House and FDR's treasury secretary Henry Morgenthau Jr, in which



Amelia Earhart, pictured with her ill-fated Lockheed Electra aircraft. Her androgynous, tomboy look became a staple of American fashion.

the latter observes that if the truth about Amelia Earhart were released then "any reputation she's got is gone".

Other historians say this could just as easily refer to the pilot's incompetence and the fact that she "absolutely disregarded all orders" by failing to keep in contact with those monitoring her progress. After the outbreak of war, the revelation that Earhart was a spy would surely have enhanced her reputation as a daring patriot.

Like all the best conspiracy theories, this one requires the reader to ignore the obvious answer at every turn in favour of a string of plausible argu-

ments cloaked in sinister-sounding language. "Our government, lied and concealed the truth in the Amelia affair," Brink protests, with more conviction than hard evidence.

Lost Star does not quite prove that Earhart was a spy, but it reconfirms her status as an American icon. An Earhart revival is under way in the US, in line with a new brand of "power-feminism" emphasising equality by example. Earhart did not consider herself oppressed because of her gender; she merely insisted on doing what she wanted to do in a male-dominated realm. Naomi Wolf would approve. The last year has seen a new

biography of Earhart and a full-length documentary of her life. Diane Keaton will play the spunky heroine in *Ted Turner's* forthcoming film *Amelia Earhart*, a production which claims to be factual.

Earhart was invented and packaged by her husband, the publisher George Palmer Putnam. In 1928 Putnam went in search of a woman pilot to imitate Charles Lindbergh's Atlantic crossing. He found the 30-year-old Earhart, and proceeded to manage, market and then marry her. She even looked like Lindbergh, with her somewhat

androgynous style and short, rumpled hair, earning the nickname "Lady Lindy", which she loathed.

Putnam schooled her in her appearance, her smile, her voice, forging a tomboy look that immediately caught on and became a staple of American fashion.

Part self-made woman, part man-made woman, Amelia Earhart is a riddle for feminists as much as historians: like an airborne Marilyn Monroe with guts, her glamour and immortality is confirmed with each fresh burst of speculation.

Yet perhaps because modern American heroes are

picked to death almost before they take flight, conspiracy theories have a dangerous tendency to be accepted as fact in the US — as Oliver Stone's film *JFK* proved. Even in the *Name of The Father*, the new film about the Guildford Four, the real facts of which are shocking enough, bears the unmistakable mark of a Hollywood production eschewing complex truth in favour of simple, wholesale conspiracy.

Amelia Earhart may or may not have been a spy, but if Oliver Stone gets his hands on this book, she will be.

● *Lost Star: The Search for Amelia Earhart* by Randall Brink (Bloomsbury, £16.99)

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Television's greatest scriptwriter

The BBC's adaptation of *Martin Chuzzlewit* will merely confirm that Dickens was born for TV

MOST television consists of lots of people with nothing to do staring at other people doing it, without a ripple disturbing the inertia of anybody's mind. But, setting aside the sillier game shows and other mental wallpaper, at its best television is the art form of our age. Not just vast amounts of money, but high skill and art go into its production. *Pace* intellectual backwoodsman and television-phobes, and whatever you may think of the programmes, the makers of soaps such as *EastEnders* and *Coronation Street* are experts at the human comedy. That is how they make their bread.

In spite of the talent devoted to our best television, the greatest of television scriptwriters is more than 150 years old. I have no doubt that if Dickens were living today, he would be scribbling for television. His episodic nature would have suited the work pattern of the man who wrote much of his best fiction under the lash in instalments for next month's deadline, and switched plots to catch the instant news topic of the day. His books are highly theatrical, as he demonstrated in the hugely popular public readings he performed from them. They created archetypes that

have become part of the national toy cupboard, and are made for the arts at which the British excel, character acting and lovable over-acting.

Martin Chuzzlewit is the latest book by Dickens to be turned into television. The BBC begins filming it in five parts next month, with a constellation of stars. As much to the point, the adaptation is being written by David Lodge, who can be trusted not to let the budget of £1 million drown out some of the funniest and acutest dialogue in English.

AS HE finished *Chuzzlewit*, Dickens wrote he thought it "in a hundred points immeasurably the best of my stories". He tended to think that about whatever he had just finished, in the exhilaration of writing "the end" on the bottom line; and he was wrong about *Chuzzlewit*. It is not in fact one of his greatest novels, largely because of his uncharacteristic understatement of the central Chuzzlewit family. But it could have been made for television.

Like all good soaps, it has constant alternations of scene and mood, from comedy to melodrama and tear-jerker. When sales of the early parts proved disappointing, Dickens switched continents and introduced the American ex-



Dickens's comic character Sarah Gamp proposes a toast

cursion, based on his visit there in 1842, and sending up American pretensions and hypocrisy rotten. Dickens used comedy as a weapon against those by whom he felt threatened, which is why he made so much fun of women. The American adventure created a public sensation, and, wrote Dickens with satisfaction, "made them all stark staring raving mad across the water". It also increased sales of *Chuzzlewit*.

Vice is punished, virtue rewarded and hypocrites unmasked, as they should be in all good soaps, and hearts

bleed for simpleton Tom Pinch hopelessly in love with the heroine, who is reserved for the leading man. Of course it is sentimental, but Dickens is better at the sentiment than any other script-writer. His big heart for underdogs shows in his change of attitude to Mercy Pecksniff, when she changes from shallow frivol to battered wife. Characters develop and learn from life in the moral world of *Chuzzlewit*, as they do not in the earlier novels, where they represent unchanging attributes. So they should develop in a soap, to keep attention. In

Chuzzlewit there is a murderer fit to set beside Bill Sikes, and Dickens's (and soap's) fascination with crime and money is satisfied by the topical Anglo-Bengalee Distressed Loan and Life Insurance Company.

ABOVE all, there are two of the larger-than-life comic characters of English fiction in Seth Pecksniff, the avaricious hypocrite — "he was a most exemplary man: fuller of virtuous precept than a copybook" — and Sarah Gamp, who was born as a majestic afterthought fully armed with gin-soaked quirkiness — "Gamp is my name, and Gamp my name". They steal the show.

Those two monsters have fixed themselves in the national phantasmagoria of representative characters as firmly as Falstaff, the Wife of Bath, and the Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*, and, in the television age, Alf Garnett and Ena Sharples. The television series is a different, simpler game, but it will bring some back to the subtler delights of the book. Dickens was a lord of language, but he also had a television director's eye for a dramatic visual effect. If the BBC cannot make a compulsive successor to *Middlemarch*, out of *Chuzzlewit*, lamb's will not forgive, nor worries forget. But there is no fear of that, with a television script by a master of the medium before his time.

PHILIP HOWARD

Lady Margaret Douglas-Home tells Julia Llewellyn Smith
about her solitary childhood in the Spencer family seat

This zest shines through her book *A Sparrow Chattered*, which, in fewer than 60 pages, manages to evoke the spirit of a foreign era, a time which Philip Larkin mourned in *MCMLXIV*: "Never such innocence/ Never before or since." These are the memories of a little girl who hated her thrall-up boots and was laced by her first taste of Grape Nuts, who, despite growing up - motherless and almost alone, speaks of "the deep happiness felt unconsciously by many of my generation".



Lady Margaret Spencer at 18: a race through the season, and years of being wild.

When her father died in 1922, her brother Jack (the image of Prince William) and his family took over Althorp and "nobody knew what to do with me". She was dispatched to Paris to study French and music for "such a wonderful two and a half

It was what, exactly? I realize she was a bit of a fantasist, but she told me two unbelievable stories of a trip to South Africa as lady-in-waiting to Princess Alice. She studied music in Vienna — “all my best memories come from Vienna” — and at the Royal Academy in London, and somewhere along the way she met her husband, Henry. “He was one of the group we knew at Oxford,” she says casually. She had “had fun for a long time” — and then, in 1913, the *Althorp* on July 9, 1931. “My wedding dress had lace on it that belonged to Marie Antoinette, so I

she would probably have been known for her music. "I wasn't too fond of things a girl like he could find out," she said. "I don't think you're talking enough about your music," she shouts across the room. "Oh music, yes, it punctuated my life. Without that I would have been quite a different person." Fiona says her mother has accompanied many famous artists, has given recitals in the Wigmore Hall, and has organised the annual Burnham Market festival, attracting performers such as Felicity Lott and the English Chamber Orchestra to the village church. "I prod her, sit down at the grand piano, and for ten minutes or so, with many embarrassed disclaimers — 'this old thing's fearfully out of tune' —"

The problem with interviewing Lady Margaret is that she would far rather be asking the questions. She is fascinated by everything and everyone. The photographer's arrival makes her lose all concentration; she is intrigued by his equipment and wants to know all about his life.

"The Spencers are so long-lived," Fiona tells me. "It's the good food, the outdoor life, the genes." Meanwhile, Lady Margaret and the photographer are discussing the American base at Guantánamo in Cuba.

● A Spencer Childhood is available, price £4.95, from John Can Educational Ltd, Great Glemham, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 2DH (0728 78666).

Jackson's chequebook justice

After the Hays Code was imposed and the Catholic League of Decency monitored Hollywood's every production, studio bosses employed an army of publicists, private detectives and lawyers to clean up the real-life messes the stars created. Hush money kept the secrets of the actors and actresses who were held up for public disdain. Whenever the glamour was tarnished by tales of perversion, drug abuse and general sleaze, money bought silence. Their fictional lives held a stronger appeal for the paying public than their inadequate real-life personalities.



Hollywood lawyers do not come cheap. In 1922, the huge and hugely popular comedian Fatty Arbuckle hired the best of them when charged with the rape and murder of Virginia Rappe, who died at an orgy he attended in the Sands Hotel in San Francisco. Arbuckle was arrested and tried, was mis-tried twice, and eventually released.

But the charges against Michael Jackson, though serious, are less severe than those Artuckle faced, and unlike those on which Polanski was convicted, they remain unproven. Besides, Jackson is a bigger star than either. He may also profit from a climate in which the public — and apparently the legal

Jerry Lee Lewis was not so lucky. When the 22-year-old rock and roller flew into London in a blaze of publicity in 1958, having married a 13-year-old Pentecostalist called Myra, the Home Office stopped short of extraditing him, but an audience of 4,000 at the Gaumont State Cinema in Kilburn sat in stony silence as he performed *I'm All Shook Up*; then booed him off the stage.

The paying public of the 1990s is a good deal less censorious. "Things that would have killed an artist in the 50s and 40s, don't now," says James Miller, manager of the Tempo Records Store on Crenshaw Boulevard in Downtown L.A. "The attitude is that if that's his lifestyle, that's his lifestyle."

Allegations by the former Hollywood madam, Heidi Fleiss, that Charlie Sheen was a regular hirer of her female consorts, will, far from harming his career, enhance his lucrative reputation as the film world's leading "bad boy."

And still Michael Jackson's worshippers refuse to swallow the possible significance of Jordan Chandler's allegations. Tom Joyner, whose band Uncle Bunchie and the Live House recently recorded a song in support of Jackson, *We Believe In You*, said yesterday: "When you pay a settlement, I think some people perceive it as an admission of guilt. Personally, I'm still a fan."

So are millions more. "Our research has shown that people are tired of hearing about the case," says Greg Duncan, a Los Angeles radio programmer. "If anything, the settlement keeps him in business." That's the kind of thing they like to hear in Hollywood. The show *must* go on.

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Alan Coren



■ What today's slothful, video-obsessed children need is a slow march to China

You know Argos of course. He had eyes all over his body, which was not only why he was also listed as Panoptes in the Olympus phone book, but also why he was selected to look after Io after Zeus had changed her into a heifer. A lousy job, but someone had to do it, and when you reflect that Io not only named the Ionian Sea while swimming through it as a woman but also named the Bosphorus while swimming through it as a heifer (bos - ox, poros - ford, as anyone who read Greek at Poros will tell you), you can see why Argos needed eyes in the back of his head. He nevertheless enjoyed the job (it is said he clocked on every morning singing, "Io, Io, it's off to work we go!"), but since he was subsequently slain by Hermes for no better reason than that Hera needed a boxful of eyes to customise the tail of her new invention, the peacock, you can understand why, in his next incarnation, Argos decided to come back as a chain of cut-price retail outlets: shrewdly retaining no exposing hint of his former caring self other than the motto on the cover of his mail-order catalogue, "Argos takes care of it".

Which brings us, though not for a bit, to the pressing contemporary issue of what video games are doing to the constitutions of British children. The bit finds me on a bicycle, pedalling towards Shanghai. That it is no ordinary bicycle will be clear to anyone who knows my true feelings about the Gobi Desert, in the middle of which I should now be if it were an ordinary bicycle, but since it is not, I am still in the middle of Crickwood, though with calves like rubber balls and arteries down which a corpuscle may sprint without once banging its head from start to finish. This is because my bicycle is an unweeched exercise number bought at Argos five years ago, from the odometer of which it may be seen that my subsequent heart-cleansing half hour a day now tots up to 8,340 miles, putting me, as it were, within a week's hard pedal of Ulan Bator's delightful outskirts. Furthermore, something I shall return to after a bit within one volume of the end of *A Dance to the Music of Time*, since throughout the same five years I have also, thanks to the hands-off option immobility affords, been reading a daily half hour of Powell, which I certainly couldn't have done had my bicycle been wheeled; they're barmy drivers the Kazaks, and as I was deep in *Casanova's Chinese Restaurant* at the time, I might easily have wound up finishing it while plugged supine into an iffy Tselinograd drip, holding the book above my head with my good hand.

And yes, I do realise this isn't the shortest route to Shanghai, but as the alternative was trans-peddalling the Himalayas, I think I made the right choice. I wasn't born yesterday. We shall come to those who were, but not until we have addressed the last bit of the bit for it is now time to introduce you to the Mini Stepper.

This is yet another cardiophilic gem from Argos, and I bought it last week because, combined with their bicycle, it will make me live even longer. The Mini Stepper is a two hydraulically operated steel footprints when you place your own feet on them, you can walk as far as you like, on the spot. It is nothing more nor less than a tidy personal road, and I have already done 20 miles on it; indeed, I like the exercise so much that there is a grave risk of my ending up using it more than the bicycle, and may thus not only never pedal into Shanghai, but around 1998, pass myself on foot just outside Nanking. Never mind: either way, I shall be as fit as a flea.

Which finally brings me to those who were born yesterday: i.e. to the British Heart Foundation's present fear for the cardiac destiny of tots who spend their lives in front of video games, never taking any exercise to offset the chance of their atheromatic arteries snapping like pipe-stems before they're 30. What, cries the BHF, is to be done?

What is to be done is our chum, parental choice. Parents must choose to buy either an exercise bike for 60 quid or exercise feet for 30, stick their infants aboard, and then pop the whole ensemble in front of the screen. Where, as they pump, the kids may simultaneously play all the video games that ever were or will be, to their hearts' content.



Tax evasion on all sides

The parties are fighting a phoney war on taxation while failing to face up to the fiscal choices of the future

Yippeel Giglamps has goofed on taxes! They have found another fiasco in his study. Let's debag him. Let's rip his blazer. Let's break his glasses and push him head-first down the bog. Pass the chumpers. Fourneys is up to his neck in the unmentionable again.

Thus do the scions of the Tory press greet each item of bad news for John Major — scribes who three years ago hailed him as "pure magic". Even the tabloid urchins have sniffed the wind and are guffawing down the street behind the broadsheet toffs. Who said loyalty was the Tories' secret weapon? This is par for the course. Ted Heath had the same experience in 1973 and Margaret Thatcher in 1981. The question is, can Major turn the other cheek and still win a scholarship to Big School?

This week the Hooray Henrys have been out of their depth. They have stopped deploring the nation's sex life or the undeserving poor or dams in Malaysia — about all of which they know nothing. They have lurched instead into real politics. They are talking about my money. At such moments, I leap from my chair, put my savings in my boot and reach for the gun under my pillow.

Let us start with the facts. This time last year, economic commentators were close to hysteria over borrowing. Government spending had surged ahead of revenue in honour of the 1992 election. The public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) was heading towards £50 billion a year, which was too much. The gap could not realistically be closed by spending cuts. The public was howling for more on health, roads, schools, pay. Taxes had to rise, and in the two 1993 Budgets they did. Both Budgets, from Norman Lamont and Kenneth Clarke, were regarded as responsible at the time. There were pats on the back all round.

Budget reaction is always liable to political drag. Six months on, the implications sink into the skulls of those who previously waved their order papers with delight. The Conservative Party was aware a year ago of the tax bogey. I have before me a Central Office "question and answer" pamphlet dated January 1993. "Won't you have to raise taxes," it bravely asked of itself, "to pay for this reckless spending spree?" There was no answer, just some waffle about the PSBR and then blank space. The next question was: "Despite

all your promises, hasn't the tax burden risen under the Conservatives?" Er, um, ahem, stammered the document, the burden had fallen "since 1981". But the Conservatives took office in 1979. Silence. This confession was a year ago.

So what is new? Treasury figures have been published conceding the Central Office document (and the more recent *Times* calculation). Yes, the "tax burden" has risen under the Tories. Yes, this contrasts with the emphatic message of the 1992 manifesto: "High taxes kill the goose that lays the golden egg... lower taxes have encouraged more people to work harder." The Tories did indeed

since the war has been a "high spender". In every nation, democratic governments of all political colours have increased spending on public services as concomitants of economic growth. Polls may show that the electorate resents high taxes, but not as much as it wants more public spending. Over the course of the 1980s, government's average annual "take" from the nation's income was 45 per cent in Britain, roughly what it is today. In more prosperous Germany it was 48 per cent, in France 51 per cent, in Denmark 59 per cent and in The Netherlands 60 per cent. In comparison, socialist Spain (39 per cent) and socialist Greece (40 per cent) were apparent paragons of Thatcherite virtue. But they were not. They were merely poor.

Any government can spend more recklessly than the trend. John Major did from the moment of taking office until the 1992 election, one of the most expensive elections of modern times. Now he and we must pay for it. But all democracies must balance the books sooner or later, even the spendthrift Dutch. Over time, the share of a country's income taken by government rises and falls in response to the economic cycle. The share naturally rises in bad times, because the private sector is declining and because welfare spending rises. In good times the reverse applies. Governments can borrow to ease the pain, as this Government has done to excess. But sooner or later taxes must rise. Public spending cuts seldom obviate this need.

Fifteen years of ideological assault by the Conservatives have failed to cut government's share of the national income by even one percentage point. This is surely a lost cause. Perhaps there is no such thing as an "optimum size" of the public sector. Perhaps the size is irrelevant, a

total that merely aggregates changes in the character of the political economy. Perhaps the question is more crude: who really needs public help and how can money be raised to give it? I do not believe the answer any longer divides Labour and Conservative along a deep electoral fault.

In a *Demos* pamphlet, *The World's New Frontiers*, published this week, Vincent Cable points out that the post-socialist consensus now extends beyond the simple virtues of capitalist development. It even embraces technical details such as the need for deficit reduction, non-political control of monetary policy and freer trade. The American enthusiasm for "reinventing government" may involve bitter argument, but it is not particularly left or right wing. And it is coming here, slowly.

There is no fundamental disagreement between the main political parties over these matters, nor over the content of such slogans as family values, consumer empowerment or targeted benefits. But there are other divisions. Cable's new political fissures are to be found in centralism versus local autonomy, in ethnic chauvinism, and in group economic and cultural identity.

Likewise, the French economist, Michel Albert, has vividly described the antithesis of "Capitalism against Capitalism" (in his book of that title). Which capitalism is best, he asks, the North Atlantic free-trade, anti-corporatist version, with the State as sole agent of welfare, or the version practised in continental Europe and Japan, based on enlightened but monopolistic corporations and a tradition of private welfare? These two versions are deeply divergent. But which is Labour and which is Tory? British politics are out of date.

Occasionally, as this week, the outdatedness shows. The "right" sizes for the public sector or the tax burden are dead issues between the parties. But politicians have not begun any ideological realignment. They have bickered over who was telling the truth at election time. Who expects that of them? They are the custodians of public dreams. We require them to promise more than they can deliver. We do it partly to watch them try, partly to make them squirm when they fail. If no bread, at least we shall have crucifixes. But these are the old politics. The new lie elsewhere.

Doubting Thomas's doctrine

Christianity will lose in the new RE, says Edward Norman

During the middle years of this century the debate about religion in the nation's schools turned on whether there should be religious instruction or religious education — whether it was the duty of school-teachers to present Christianity as true or to explain its teachings and practices in a neutral manner and allow individual choice. The requirements of liberal values in education have more or less closed that debate in favour of the second option. It was the right thing to have done, accepting the other benefits of personal choice in a society of increasingly incoherent values.

The issue now is the extent to which Christianity should be presented as one among a number of necessarily competing religious faiths. The new curriculum will give half the space to Christianity and half to the other world religions, Christianity being accorded preference because it is culturally and historically the religion which has moulded the nation's identity.

The arrangement is probably just about right. It recognises also the existence of sizeable groups of citizens whose religious loyalties belong to traditions of non-European origin. But the main case for teaching about Islam, Hinduism and so forth in the schools is that it is intellectually important in its own right: children should be acquainted with the ideas and systems which inform the deepest instincts of so many of the world's peoples.

The trouble with this from the Christian point of view is that the simultaneous presentation of different religious traditions is likely to be relativising: it is likely to foster what used to be called "indifferentism", or the conviction that one religion is as good as any other. That happens to correspond with a widespread supposition in modern British society: it is not true, nonetheless, from a Christian standpoint. Christ said "no one comes to the Father but by me".

What Christian clergy and parents should do, however, is to see that their own efforts to instruct the young in Christianity are well informed, rather than look to the schools to do it for them. Let national education furnish the raw data; the churches should be capable of doing the rest. I serve in a vocational college, many of whose students are training to be teachers, and I can testify to the excellence and seriousness of the preparations made for religious education — the teaching profession is quite able, and is well qualified, to provide the knowledge that children need. The churches should be able to inspire individual conviction in individual children. It is the churches, to put it bluntly, who have to say that one religion is better than another.

The real worry about the new government national guidelines concerns — paradoxically enough — the provision that half the space should be allocated to Christianity. And the reason is that this apparently preferential treatment will turn out to be no such thing.

In the first place, teaching about other world faiths is likely to be extremely uncritical — partly out of the very understandable fear that teachers have of saying anything about the beliefs of ethnic minorities which may encourage racial prejudice. But where the other faiths are presented in their most favourable light, Christianity will appear as a patchwork of controversy and self-questioning. To some extent, of course, it does now present a face of self-doubt: the reason for that, however, is that it has for nearly two centuries had to address and to adapt itself to modern cultural and intellectual issues which the other world faiths have only recently begun to encounter.

A second area of concern is more serious, for it is about the understanding of spirituality itself. The half of the curriculum which purports to present Christian understanding may well do no such thing. In April 1993 the National Curriculum Council produced a document entitled *Spiritual and Moral Development*. It interpreted the word spiritual in an almost entirely materialist manner. Spirituality, that is to say, was largely represented as a characteristic of humanity's higher instincts — it is all about human values, aesthetic and cultural enrichment, personal aspirations, creating perceptions about the value of life, and so forth.

Where religious belief was acknowledged, its origins were placed decisively in the realm of feelings rather than of objective truth — "feelings which may give rise to belief in the existence of a divine being, or the belief that one's inner resources provide the ability to rise above everyday experiences". That opinion was offered as a definition of "transcendence". Religious belief, in such a frame of reference, becomes a dimension of human moral seriousness: it's all about the worth of mankind.

There is a possibility that the preference allocated to Christianity in the national guidelines may become a cause of its further decline — and another boost to the divinity of humanity. It is Christians who should take note. Now is the time to address themselves more seriously than they sometimes do to the crucial duty of instructing the young in Christian doctrine. There was, perhaps, never a society so little acquainted with the real beliefs of its own religious traditions as ours.

Dr Norman is Chaplain of Christ Church College of Education, Canterbury.

Freedom fighter

LADY THATCHER was generous in her praise of the late and much lamented Brian Redhead, paying particular tribute to his espousal of a free society. But judging by a book to be published next month, Redhead's idea of a free society was not quite Thatcher's.

Fuzzy Monsters: Fear and Loathing at the BBC, by Chris Horrie and Steve Clarke, is described by its publisher Heinemann as "a rip-roaring gallop through the recent history of the BBC". It takes its readers back to the early days of Thatcher's reign, describing how she developed her interview technique, diligently doing humming exercises to achieve the perfect pitch for microphones. It also recounts how she, and more particularly Sir Denis, took exception to the *Today* team's apparent notion that its job was to hold his wife's government to account.

The book says that Sir Bernard Ingham, then Thatcher's press secretary, eventually banned his mistress from speaking to the programme after Redhead used the phrase "a conspiracy" to describe the way in which Ingham orchestrated leaks in the Government's favour. "Most damage to Government-BBC relations

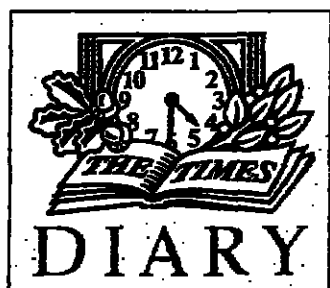
was done between 6.30 and 9am by my former *Guardian* colleague, Brian Redhead," Ingham is quoted as saying.

Yesterday, Ingham refused to temper his historical remarks: "The programme spent all its time parading pressure groups in front of the nation, many people thought incorrectly. And also the asides, not just of Brian Redhead but of other presenters as well, caused a great deal of angst on the part of ministers. Yes, it certainly aggravated the situation between the Government and the BBC."

Leading family

MEMBERS of the illustrious Garnett clan are accustomed to the headlines, Virginia Bottomley, nee Garnett, is our swiftly rising, perfectly formed Health Secretary; cousin Peter (Jay) is the BBC's economics editor; Christopher Garnett, brother of Virginia, recently announced fares for the first Channel shuttles, as commercial director for Eurotunnel.

Yesterday was the turn of Virginia's baby brother, William. As the litigation expert with London solicitors Bates Wells & Braithwaite, he handled the libel case brought by the *EastEnders*



ling on all our exhibition material," said a weary Piotrowski. "Our international visitors seem to find it hard to understand the displays, so we're introducing more information in more languages. We're becoming user-friendly."

Here's the us

MERCIFULLY for a Scottish nation which was toasting Robert Burns into the wee small hours, haggis has not been hit like beef products by BSE scares or fears of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Indeed talk is of an increase in sales: one Edinburgh butcher, MacSween, reports selling 80 tonnes over the past 12 weeks.

With Brussels bureaucrats abray, however, there is no room for complacency, warns Margaret

star Gillian Taylor against *The Sun*. Although the firm has a reputation among legal cognoscenti as "gentle" charity specialists, it is no stranger to scandal. Burglars broke into its offices and stole the "Paddy Pantsdown" papers kept by Garnett's colleague, Andrew Phillips. And Phillips also advised Sir David Steel in his successful libel action against *The Sun*.

Even in defeat there was no escaping the Garnetts. An overture Taylor was dispatched to the casualty department of St Bartholomew's Hospital. Which William's sister, of course, plans to close.

● Something of a busman's holiday for Professor Mikhail Piotrowski, among the crowd celebrating the opening of the Fabergé exhibition at the V&A yesterday. Now it's straight back to St Petersburg for the curator of the Hermitage. "We're having to change the label-

Ewing, Scottish Nationalist MP for Moray. She is launching a "hands off our haggis" campaign, urging the Government to ensure that no "silly" regulations are introduced, threatening the purity of the traditional product.

"We can all remember the fight to protect Scotch whisky from regulations which said the spring water used was not pure enough," said Ewing, planning to attend no fewer than four Burns-night suppers. "We don't want anything like that happening to the haggis."

● EVERYTHING you always wanted to know about Rasputin — most of it deeply obnoxious — will be disclosed tonight on BBC2's *Timewatch*, including what producer Laurence Rees claims was his favourite chat-up line. "He didn't believe in foreplay. Instead he used to say, 'You think I am polluting you but I am not: I am purifying you.' You smooth-talking mad monk, you."

High tide

THE THAMES will be swollen on Boat Race day this spring. Swollen with people that is, for the Oxford and Cambridge eights will be taking to the water on the same day as 400 other rowing crews partaking in the Head of the River race.

The Boat Race is usually run a week after the Head of the River,

which follows the Oxford and Cambridge course in the opposite direction. But tide patterns mean the two events take place on the same day this year, presenting an excruciating crush on the banks.

Daniel Topoletski, the BBC's dashing Boat Race commentator and former Oxford coach, hopes to do rowing kit after the Oxford and Cambridge race. "I'd like to crew in the Head of the River, which happens later in the afternoon," he says. Less enthusiastic is Inspector James Maddan of Putney police, charged with keeping order. "There are a lot of foreign entrants this year who aren't used to tidal rowing and the crews will want to practise in the morning. I just hope they don't all get in each other's way."

● The makers of *Scarlett*, sequel to *Gone with the Wind*, are wise to drop plans to use the Wiltshire village of Castle Combe for filming. Back in the Sixties, 20th Century Fox found film sets for Dr Doolittle wrecked by a commando-style raid. Horrified at the film-makers' desecration, explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes went in with explosives left over in his boot from an SAS course. Despite a tip-off to police, he reported "mission accomplished". "20th Century Fox removed all the hideous concrete and restored the village to its former glory."



MORE GREEN PROMISES

These worthy bones need to be fleshed out

John Gummer inherited a long list of Government pledges when he took over the environment portfolio last summer. His green credentials were mixed. At agriculture, he had thrown himself with gusto into international battles to save the whale and pioneered incentives for environmentally friendly farming. But when hard political decisions were required, for example over agricultural pollution of Britain's rivers, he had been circumspect to a fault. Where such heavyweights as Chris Patten and Michael Heseltine had made little real headway, Mr Gummer hardly seemed the man to draw up and honour what Lady Thatcher memorably called "a full repairing lease" of environmental management.

Britain has been active in green diplomacy dealing with the ozone layer and the potential hazards of man-made global warming. But at home, water and traffic pollution, the quality of city air and some industrial emissions have worsened since the 1990 Environmental Protection Act. Britain's policies have been attacked by green lobbies, Brussels and even some industrialists, as patchy to the point of incoherence.

Yesterday, Mr Gummer presented Britain's strategy for meeting the targets laid down at the Rio "earth summit" in 1992. Its four weighty volumes represent a praiseworthy effort to rank the severity of environmental threats and set priorities accordingly — something the environmental lobbies who rushed to hostile judgment yesterday often conspicuously fail to do. It spells out the broad implications of Britain's treaty obligations to curb greenhouse gas emissions, and sets out a decent framework for the preservation of British habitats and wildlife. There is welcome acknowledgement that the "repairing lease" must extend not just to economically valuable resources, but to things, such as landscape and fresh air, that people value for their own sake.

Yet the immediate agenda amounts to little more than a listing of existing measures. John Major spoke yesterday of

"painful political action". He used the occasion to rub in the environmental virtues of VAT on domestic fuel and higher petrol charges, for all the world as though the principal attraction for the Government had not been their efficacy as revenue-raisers. He talked of "breaking the link" between economic growth and pollution. But beyond detailing existing measures to bring Britain's greenhouse gas emissions in 2000 down to 1990 levels — required by the Rio climate convention — meat has yet to be put on most of these worthy bones.

Recession is not environmentally friendly. The register of contaminated land proposed in the 1990 Act has, for example, fallen victim to fears of creating property blight. The Government is more explicit than before that there will have to be trade-offs between pollution and the freedom to use private cars. Transport is the fastest growing source of Britain's CO₂ emissions; traffic in 2025 could be double its volume in 1989; and on current policies, the trend continues upward thereafter. Yet the nature of these trade-offs is left to further study, and the strength of the Government's commitment to investing in public transport is far from clear.

More research is undoubtedly needed in many areas; and Germany's recycling fiasco has demonstrated, it is wise to do the green accounts properly before getting people to change the ways they live. Bottle banks are surely as peripheral as they are conspicuous. But getting priorities right is only a first step. Congestion, pollution, quality of life: these are grassroots concerns, and transport is central to all of them.

The impression lingers that the Government, caught between its instinctive dislike of regulation and its acceptance of "sustainable development", still lives in hope that small incentives will produce incommensurately large results. The first task of the independent panel of advisers to be set up under the new strategy must be to convince politicians of the need to put explicit plans for the 21st century into the arena of debate.

CLASSROOM LESSONS

A wise plan for religious education

How to impart religious knowledge to children is an inevitably tough problem facing a society of many faiths. The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA) may not receive much praise for the two model syllabuses for religious education published yesterday. It deserves better. The opposition which the proposals have already provoked merely emphasises the delicacy of the task undertaken.

In many areas, the legal obligation to teach religious knowledge is more honoured in the breach than the observance. Some schools do not have appropriately trained staff; others shy away from traditional religious education on ideological grounds, offering instead a politically correct mixture of ethics and sociology. Many non-Christians object that the 1988 Education Reform Act, which demands that religious education is "in the main" Christian, is prejudiced — or even that their beliefs are not a matter for detached, comparative study. Official circulars on the subject tend towards wooliness.

The emergence of a multi-faith society in Britain has strengthened, rather than weakened, the case for systematic religious education. Non-Christian children need a grounding in the faith that has done much to define British culture and history — especially if such knowledge is not readily available in their homes and communities. Likewise, their Christian classmates will benefit from a basic understanding of the main minority religions which may shape the beliefs of their prospective neighbours.

The new syllabuses recommend an annual minimum of 40 hours religious education,

of which at least half should be devoted to Christianity. Pupils will be expected to study two other religions by the age of 11 and to have grasped the basics of Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism and Buddhism by 16. Very young children should not be overburdened by ideas from too many different faiths: six-year-old pupils should know the Easter story before they learn about the Prophet Muhammad. Children should be taught the religious ideas, knowledge and heritage that they need to be intelligent citizens, with a clear emphasis upon the Christian tradition. Sensibly, the SCAA has rejected thematic approaches which seek common strands in different faiths. Muddled pantheism is of little value.

Though religious teaching may enhance moral understanding, this should not be its main objective. Religious education is not the same as religious instruction — although they have been confused by some Christians hostile to the SCAA proposals. John Patten is right to demand that schools teach right and wrong; but they should do so by setting high standards of discipline and civility rather than sermonising in the classroom.

The new syllabuses have no legal force, offering merely a template for local authorities and a benchmark for parents. Resistance may be strong in some areas; apathy will reign in more. Teachers will argue, with some justice, that most of them lack the necessary training to teach such an ambitious range of religious subjects. Energetic collaboration between ministers, the SCAA and schools will be needed if this initiative is to add up to more than pious hopes.

SILENT WARRIORS

Humanity cannot bear too much of the brutal truth

The death of Nikolai Ogarkov, the former chief of the general staff and one of the last surviving marshals of the Soviet Union, blocks a vital avenue of investigation into the shooting down of the South Korean airliner KAL 007. A party loyalist to the end, the highly decorated officer vigorously defended the action at the time, giving an unprecedented press conference where his intellectual command was in chilling contrast to the twilight world of the dozzering men in the Kremlin. Shortly afterwards he disappeared, apparently in disgrace, only to resurface in a new role coordinating Soviet troop operations in Eastern Europe, and prompting a flurry of speculation. Was he drawing up a secret strategy against the West? Had he been planning a coup? Even after the overthrow of communism, he never spoke out.

Marshal Ogarkov was not the only communist warrior to take the secrets of the Cold War to the grave. Last week, Eugene Ivanov, the dashing Soviet intelligence officer whose affair with Christine Keeler precipitated the most lurid scandal in postwar Britain, was found dead in his flat, the debris of a squandered and vodka-soaked life never fully explained. A more intelligent but more sanitised memoir was published by Kim Philby, the spy's spy and the archetypal denizen of the shadow world. Now his memorabilia are to be auctioned by Sotheby's — but the documents that might reveal the mask behind the mask have doubtless long been shredded.

When dictatorships collapse, the world longs to delve into the rotten foundations that held them up. A book has been written about every character trapped in Hitler's bunker as the Russians closed in. The Stasi files in East Germany are now proving a fertile archive for sensation. And the race is on to find out who really ordered the building of the Berlin Wall before those who know, Erich Honecker and his spy chief Markus Wolf, die in exile or prison.

They probably will not say. But the imminence of death often loosens tongues. Khrushchev wrote extensively, with the clear desire to have his memoirs smuggled out to the world. Molotov was said also to have written his memoirs in his old age, for storage in the inner sanctum of the party archives. So far, if they exist, they have not surfaced. The Germans have a word for this "pressure to speak out": *Mittelungsdrang*. Not everyone feels it. No one has yet come forward to say what really happened to Raoul Wallenberg, or where the files are hidden. Raymond Mercader, the Spanish communist who buried an ice-pick in Trotsky's head, lived on for years in Moscow after release from a Mexican jail, invisible and incommunicado. Thousands of bureaucrats who kept the engines of repression going in the Soviet Union and in other totalitarian states will never confess their deeds. Perhaps it is as well. Humanity cannot always bear to know too much. Marshal Ogarkov would have agreed.

Bad language and TV's watershed

From the Chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council

Sir, In a speech to the Campaign for Freedom of Information on January 20, Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, described the Broadcasting Standards Council as a "culture-strangler". The immediate cause belli was the council's finding partly upholding a complaint against the first episode of *The Camomile Lawn*, repeated on Channel 4 last October (report, December 17; report, letter and advertisement, January 13). The disagreement is, however, not about culture but about puritans and non-puritans.

The council's code of practice, over which Channel 4 and other broadcasters were consulted in 1989, follows the long-standing tradition in British broadcasting of regarding the 9pm watershed in television as the signal, after the period of family viewing, for a gradual, not an abrupt, change in the nature of material transmitted.

The Broadcasting Act 1990 requires the council to investigate any complaint within its remit, whether it comes from one person or a score. The complaint about the use of bad language in *The Camomile Lawn* was considered, like all such complaints, in the light of several factors: the time of transmission, the channel, the probable expectations of the audience, the provisions of the code, the results of any relevant research by the council (in this instance, its findings on the extent of public feeling against bad language, especially the F-word), and the broadcaster's explanation of the relevant decisions.

The council also had in mind a then-recent exchange on the interpretation of the watershed between Mr Grade and the council's director, who reminded him that a watershed is not a waterfall. It is perhaps hardly to be wondered at if the council concluded, as it had done after the original transmission of the serial in 1992, that the use of the F-word some eight minutes after the transmission began at 9pm was too early.

Although Channel 4 told the council it regretted the inadvertent omission on this occasion of the warning given in 1992, that could be no solace to those members of the audience likely to be offended by the unexpected use of a word known to give widespread offence. For there was no warning. The council's argument is about the significance of the watershed in the scheduling of the episode, not the integrity of the production.

Yours faithfully,
ELSPETH HOWE,
Chairman,
Broadcasting Standards Council,
54 The Sanctuary, SW1,
January 21.

'Torture' writ

From Mr Keith Carmichael

Sir, The Court of Appeal's decision to allow a writ to be issued against the Kuwaiti government for allegedly assisting in the torture of a British/Kuwaiti citizen represents a landmark for victims who seek redress ("Kuwaiti can sue shaihs for torture", later editions, January 22).

Many countries throughout the world continue to practise these acts, while at the same time ratifying conventions and enacting laws against torture.

Amnesty International, for example, has reported that in 1991 alone, more than 100 states engaged in acts of torture. Frequently governments are protected from legal action and hide behind the cloak of state immunity, while publicly denouncing abuses of human rights.

The decision of the Court of Appeal is a significant step in ensuring that those who torture cannot escape from their crimes and can be brought to book.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH CARMICHAEL
(Honorary Director),
The Redress Trust,
6 Queen Square, WC1,
January 24.

Advice to No 10

From Miss Beryl M. Goldsmith

Sir, Simon Jenkins's advice to the Prime Minister via Machiavelli (article, January 19) is on the right lines. But the real Machiavelli would have commended to Major's inner circle the inclusion of those elder statesmen of the party with the sure political touch.

Thatcher, Whitelaw, Tebbit, Parkinson, McAlpine were (are) political animals of the kind the prince at No 10 desperately needs and has not got. They should be on his side privately as well as publicly. They are far from their dotage and certainly Thatcher and Tebbit can still draw and inspire the faithful like no others.

If the prince has any sense he will turn to these collective awesome political antennae without delay. They will respond; they represent the most gritty post-war Tories we have seen.

New blood? Of course. But enrich it with that touch of blue for which we yearn.

The donors are ready and able.

Yours faithfully,
BERYL M. GOLDSMITH,
34 Thomas More House,
Barbican, EC2,
January 20.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

Lowering homosexuals' consent age

From Mr M. A. Mason

Sir, I hope that MPs who are truly concerned with protection of the young (the overwhelming majority, I am sure) will shortly be marching through the lobbies to vote for a homosexual age of consent of 16, not 18 (letters, December 31, January 10, 12, 17, 20). In my experience, as a journalist with the gay press for 21 years, the present law, far from affording them protection, leads young gay men directly into the society of older men at an early age.

It must be a matter of concern, if not surprise, that the present law does not command respect amongst young men. Research by Project Sigma, funded by the Department of Health and the Medical Research Council, discovered that 88 per cent of gay men have their first sexual experience before they are 21.

The only practical effect of having an age of consent of 21 is to deter schools, local authorities, voluntary and commercial organisations from making suitable social provision for young homosexuals for fear that they will face legal sanctions for encouraging criminal acts.

What therefore happens is that teenagers make for the nearest gay pub or nightclub as soon as they can pass for 18 with the bar staff, and enter the social world of adults, choosing sexual partners from those in their twenties or thirties.

Contrast this situation with the sexual "nursery slopes" provided for young heterosexual boys and girls — school dances, youth clubs, courses of appropriate sex education and the rest. It is sad that heterosexuals continue to reserve these special privileges for themselves.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MASON
(Publisher),
Capital Gay,
49 Effra Road, SW2,
January 20.

From Mr Simon Callow

Sir, Professor Oliver (letter, January 20) may be under the impression that lobbyists for change in the law on homosexual consent are asking for people to make a firm decision as to their orientation at the age of 16. On the contrary, what is being proposed is an opportunity for sexually mature people of either sex to find out for themselves where their preferences lie.

What we seek to avoid is the common situation in which someone feels certain desires which he is obliged (by law) to suppress, as a consequence coming to have a neurotic relationship with those desires. Time and experience will generally determine orientation if it is not imposed.

To claim, as so many opponents of reform have insisted, that a homosexual way of life is an unhappy one is to mistake the cause of that unhappiness.

Amazon rider

From Sir George Engle, QC

Sir, The French *amazone* can mean an Amazon, but its ordinary meaning is a horsewoman. Specifically it is one who rides side-saddle — *monter à l'amazone* means to ride side-saddle. It can also mean a riding habit.

It seems that the Royal Academy was mistaken in translating the title Modigliani gave his portrait of the Baroness Marguerite de Hasse de Villiers in a riding habit as *The Amazon*, and that this in turn misled Richard Cork in his piece on the Modigliani drawings (Arts, January 18) into describing the woman in his illustration as "Aply nicknamed *The Amazon*".

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE ENGLE,
32 Wood Lane, Highgate, N6,
January 20.

Pinatubo eruption

From Ms Judi Bloch

Sir, The tenor of an article by Peter Barnard and its title in particular ("Raining cats and Filipinos", January 17) was at best offensive and at worst xenophobic. To discount the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines as "famous for 15 minutes" is to make light of the scale of the catastrophe, the loss of human life and the long-term suffering endured by the people of the Philippines.

Thank God that the people of Chichester and the Isle of Wight affected by torrential rain will never have to endure destruction of that magnitude.

Yours faithfully,
JUDI BLOCH
(Honorary Secretary),
British Philippine Society,
c/o Cambrick Trading Ltd,
75-75 Newington Causeway, SE1,
January 21.

Dark secret?

From Mrs Elizabeth Strowlger

Sir, A marshy campsite among creeks outside Porto Vecchio (Corsica) is aptly called Les Anophèles (letters, January 21, 25). Neighbouring restaurant tables sport cans of mosquito repellent alongside the mustard.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH STROWLGER,
Mayors Guest & Partners
(Chartered architects),
105-111 Euston Street, NW1,
January 25.

ness with its cure; apart, that is, from ordinary human unhappiness, which I take to be the common lot.

Yours sincerely,
SIMON CALLOW,
7 Agar Grove, NW1,
January 20.

From Mr Bennie Gray

Sir, If the father of a 15-year-old son discovered that he had had a fumble in the bell tent with his 15-year-old patrol leader, he would certainly be disappointed — but probably not much else. However, if the boy were to be seduced by a middle-aged scout master his father's response would be of a quite different nature.

This is why I fail to understand the limited nature of the present debate about the age of consent. The sex experts, the gay lobbyists and the clerics thunder on about liberation and equality and traditional family values and whether it should be 16 or 18 or 21, but I have yet to hear any reference to the comparative age of the adolescent's sexual partner.

Disease excepted, the most serious threat to young people exploring their sexuality is emotional turbulence and corruption. The law should seek to prevent the corruption of the young by the old. The young rarely corrupt one another.

People over 30 should not, in my view, be allowed to have sex with people under 17.

Yours etc,
BENNIE GRAY,
13 Church Street, NW8,
January 24.

From Mr John Harwood Stevenson

Sir, Rational debate is not assisted when supporters of the homosexual cause attempt to prove too much. The suggestion that justice requires exact parity of treatment for homosexuality and heterosexuality presupposes that one is comparing like with like. But one is not.

The homosexual relationship is fundamentally unlike the heterosexual in being of its nature sterile (and thus necessarily parasitic on the heterosexual) and involving a use of the body for which nature did not design it.

These simple facts raise questions about homosexuality and young people that are not raised by heterosexuality. Suppression of those questions is not in the long-term interests of tolerance and understanding.

Nor is the use of terms like "homophobia" to pillory rational criticism. Two of the persons most dear to me in this world are homosexuals. But in my settled judgment I remain, to coin a word, "homocritical", never "homophobic".

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HARWOOD STEVENSON,
4 Paper Buildings, Temple, EC4,
January 20.

Upgraded honours?

From Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes, MP for Wimbledon (Conservative)

Sir, I cannot be the only MP who has received representations from holders of the BEM and their families who think that this award has been debased by the reform of the honours system. Certainly my late grandmother was so proud of the BEM awarded to her in the "classless" ARP (Air Raid Precautions Service) in the Second World War, as she was of her husband's CBE (Military) and her father's OBE (Military) awards.

Nevertheless, is there now perhaps a case for translating BEMs into MBEs?

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES GOODSON-WICKES,
House of Commons.

Independence in law

From Mr G. J. Fitter

Sir, Sir John Smith's concern (letter, January 18) over the Police and Magistrates' Courts Bill is misplaced. But, to the surprise of me, I was Derek S. Hunter Esq.

Yours faithfully,
D. S. HUNTER,
82 St Thomas Street,
Portsmouth, Hampshire,
January 21.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FITTER,
Great Western Hotel,
Newquay, Cornwall,
January 20.

From the Master of Pembroke College, Oxford

Sir, If, as the Lord Chief Justice suggests (report, January 19), requiring magistrates' clerks to be evaluated violates judicial independence, why does not the service of magistrates on a police authority undermine judicial independence? Or is the principle that there is no problem with judges performing executive functions, providing they are not required to meet the standards of the executive?

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
ROBERT STEVENS,
Pembroke College, Oxford.

'Rather hard' on George Galloway

From Dr Julian Lewis

Sir, During the run-up to the last general election, I compiled and published details of the political track records of Labour MPs, including George Galloway. In early day motions in the House of Commons he had, *inter alia*:

Condemned the SAS shooting of IRA bombers on Gibraltar as "tantamount to capital punishment without trial" and "an act of terrorism" (early day motion 799, March 1989). Reaffirmed support for the then Soviet-backed Marxist regime in Angola (edn 1323, July 1989).

Congratulated Cuba on the 30th anniversary of Castro's Communist revolution and on its "great achievements" in health, education, welfare and "cultural and artistic liberation" (edn 242, January 1989).

Applauded the efforts of the people of the then Marxist Nicaragua "to achieve self-determination, peace and prosperity" (edn 261, January 1989). Criticised the refusal to allow the vice-president of the then Communist regime in Afghanistan, installed following the Soviet invasion, to visit Britain, whereas "terrorist and rebel elements have been officially invited to the United Kingdom" (edn 448, February 1989).

Supported the withdrawal of American servicemen from South Korea because they "constitute a threat" to Communist North Korea (edn 908, May 1989).

Supported the Communist *Morning Star* "in its campaign to raise £150,000 to enable it to survive" (edn 179, February 1990).

It therefore seems rather hard on Mr Galloway to be "severely reprimanded" by the Labour whips for praising Saddam Hussein (report, January 21) when he has been allowed to propagate equally obnoxious causes, so often and for so long, with complete impunity.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN LEWIS
(Deputy Director),
Conservative Research Department,
32 Smith Square, Westminster, SW1,
January 21.

Blot on the landscape

From the Duke of Wellington

Sir, There is an impending threat to the environment of one of the most beautiful areas of south-west Scotland — the Strathclyde valley. Scottish Power is proposing to place electricity cables on very large pylons across the valley for power which would then be taken by underwater cable to Northern Ireland.

This valley, which I have known intimately for 50 years, has remained largely unspoiled through the efforts of many people. Much of the area is a site of special scientific interest and the valley itself is part of the western Southern Uplands ESA (environmentally sensitive area).

Such areas unfortunately are attractive not only to those of us who care for the countryside but also to others who seek to exploit unspoiled country for commercial purposes.

It seems to me fundamentally wrong to declare ESAs and SSSIs only to set aside the safeguards on these areas when it becomes expedient to do so for commercial reasons.

I have been involved in the conservation of the environment for many years and I believe that this proposal is deplorable. I hope all those who are like-minded will express their views to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Yours faithfully,
WELLINGTON,
Stratfield Saye House,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Humble taxman

From Mr D. S. Hunter

Sir, Back in the 1960s the Inland Revenue addressed me as Mr D. S. Hunter (letters, January 11, 15, 19, 20). But, to the surprise of me, I was Derek S. Hunter Esq.

Yours faithfully,
D. S. HUNTER,
82 St Thomas Street,
Portsmouth, Hampshire,
January 21.

Market slot

From Mrs Elizabeth J. Ryeburn-Gilchrist

Sir, I was interested to see ("Success and The Times", report, January 17) the distinctive categories into which CCN Marketing has sorted Britons — e.g., "Bijou Homemakers", "Chattering Classes", "Clever Capitalists", "Corporate Careerists" and "Gentrified Villagers".

How would your readers suggest that ordinary people like me be classified for the benefit of the market?

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH J.
RYEBURN-GILCHRIST,
Flat 21A, Rose Bush Court,
Parkhill Road, NW3.

Business letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

MARSHAL NIKOLAI OGARKOV

Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, Chief of the Soviet General Staff, 1977-84, died on January 23 aged 76. He was born near Tver, north of Moscow, on October 30, 1917.

ONE of the most important Soviet military leaders in the decades following the Second World War, Nikolai Ogarkov was the first graduate of a military engineering academy to hold such a high position in the Soviet armed forces. He was also the first Soviet military leader to be intimately involved in strategic arms control. He was widely regarded as a man of great competence and intellectual ability. He had a forceful, even arrogant personality which could give offence and cause antagonism — and did, in the end, cause his downfall.

He achieved sudden prominence in the West when, in September 1983, he appeared at a news conference in Moscow and, before the world's press, resolutely defended the Soviet Air Force's shooting down of a Korean Airlines Boeing 747 over the Soviet Far East. The appearance of such a senior military figure at such a conference was, in itself, in those days before Gorbachev's policy of *glasnost*, unprecedented. Ogarkov rejected any notion of Soviet guilt in the affair, demonstrating plausibly with the aid of a map that the Korean Flight KAL 007 had strayed from its agreed route and was assumed by Soviet air defences to be on a spying mission.

In other respects Ogarkov showed considerable independence from the official party line on foreign policy. He is known to have voiced his considerable reservations about the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. In this he was in harmony with an older and wiser Soviet policy which, drinking deeply from the British experience, had always counselled against getting involved in the country.

Nikolai Vasilievich Ogarkov entered the Red Army in 1938 after the worst of Stalin's military purges of the late 1930s were over. In 1941 he graduated from the Kuibyshev Military Engineering Academy, and throughout the Second World War he served as an engineer, first on the Karelian, and then on the 2nd and 3rd Ukrainian Fronts.

After the war Ogarkov spent almost ten years as a staff officer in the Far East. After graduating from the General Staff Academy in 1959 he commanded a motor rifle division in the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany for two years. He then spent four years in the Byelorussian Military District, before



becoming commander of the Volga Military District.

In 1966 Ogarkov became a candidate member of the Party Central Committee, a sign that he was destined for higher things, and in 1968 he moved to the General Staff as First Deputy Chief. Ogarkov seems to have taken charge of the military's preparations for the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT); when they began in November 1969 he was the leading military member of the delegation. He impressed the United States negotiators as a very able man. Among his Soviet colleagues he was regarded as being a far cry from the run of the mill Soviet career officer. His desire to make, as well as enact, strategic decisions could, nevertheless, propel him into positions of collision with his military superiors and political masters from time to time.

In 1971 Ogarkov stopped attending SALT, apparently because he was busy in Moscow deputising for the Chief of the General Staff, Marshal Zakharov, who was ill. At the 24th Party Congress in the spring of 1971 Ogarkov became a full member of the Central Committee. But when Zakharov was replaced later in the year Ogarkov was passed over and the post went to General Kulikov, commander of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany.

Ogarkov's fortunes languished for a while in the mid-1970s and he moved from the General Staff to the Ministry of Defence. When the Defence Minister, Marshal Grechko, died in April 1976 and was succeeded by Marshal Ustinov, who had played a key role in arms production, Ogarkov's fortunes revived. Kulikov was moved sideways to command the Warsaw Pact and in January 1977 Ogarkov

became Chief of the General Staff.

In this position Ogarkov carried through major reforms in military organisation, setting up a new Far Eastern theatre command, and organising theatres of military operations in Europe. He tried to make the armed forces adapt more rapidly to technical change, and called for more rapid progress in developing conventional weapons and exotic systems such as directed energy weapons. He pressed for all-round preparation of the country for war and was outspoken in pointing to foreign threats to Soviet security.

As a result of his appearances before two press conferences — one to defend the Soviet shooting down of the Korean airliner, the other to explain Soviet arms policy — he received more publicity in the West than most Soviet marshals.

Ogarkov did not play a kingmaker's role during the Brezhnev and Andropov successions. Ustinov was always more powerful, and in the 1980s there were increasing signs of friction between the two men. Ogarkov's arrogance and impatience for change made him unpopular among the senior field commanders.

In September 1984 Ogarkov lost his post as Chief of the General Staff and was replaced by his deputy, Marshal Akhromyev (who committed suicide in 1991 in the wake of the abortive coup against Gorbachev). The reasons for Ogarkov's dismissal were never entirely clear; it appears that he found himself on the wrong side in policy arguments about the level of defence spending under Chernenko.

At any rate his fortunes changed again when Gorbachev succeeded Chernenko as Soviet leader in 1985. After what had seemed a period in the doldrums Ogarkov emerged anew as military commander of the ground troops of the Warsaw Pact, effectively putting him at the head of almost a million soldiers and giving him charge of the co-ordination of operations in Eastern Europe. But the subsequent break-up of the Soviet state and the Red Army effectively ended his military career.

Ogarkov remained loyal to the original Soviet ideal to the end, and his two books, *Always Ready to Defend the Fatherland* (1982) and *History Teaches Us Vigilance* (1983) presented an unwavering orthodox view of the Cold War world. When in 1990 Boris Yeltsin denounced the Communist Party at a congress, he called Yeltsin's words "a shameful speech" and marched from the Kremlin.

MAITRE SUZANNE BLUM

Maitre Suzanne Blum, formerly lawyer for the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, died in Paris on January 23 aged 95. She was born in Niort Deux Sèvres on November 24, 1898.



SUZANNE BLUM was a fierce defender of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor over a period of thirty years. She handled all their legal matters, questions relating to their French properties and later negotiated the sale of their immense correspondence — the so-called royal love letters — from the time of the prewar Abdication crisis. She was also the Windsors' executor and arranged for the sale of the Paris mansion and contents to Mohamed Al Fayed, of Harrods fame, and the disposal of the Duchess's magnificent collection of jewels.

Above all, she was the self-appointed guardian of the Windsors' privacy. She never failed to utilise France's strict privacy laws when paparazzi took long-range, unauthorised photographs of the ailing Duchess of Windsor on the balcony of the Windsor mansion in the Bois de Boulogne. She obtained damages from several magazines.

Suzanne Blum threw herself with relish and determination into the controversy surrounding Thames Television's series, *Edward and Mrs Simpson* shown in Britain in 1978. Her "secret weapon" in her counter-offensive against what she considered slurs on the Windsors was the correspondence between the couple predating their wedding. This consisted of several hundred letters and notes, many of them banal, but others of a more amorous nature. She found an ally in Viscount Rothermere, owner of Associated Newspapers, himself an exile in Paris, who was convinced of the marketability of the letters, although it took some time before Blum allowed even him a close look.

At the time, the lawyer set up a kind of "Windsor war room" at her magnificent apartment, filled with Oriental antiques, on Paris's Rue de Varenne, right next door to the Hôtel Maitland, seat of the French Prime Minister, an appropriate location for someone who had acted since before the Second World War for politicians, film studios and stars, writers and artists. After many months of negotiations, which involved editors and members of the Associated Newspapers board, Lord Rothermere's *Daily Mail* eventually paid a very large sum for the serialisation of the love letters. They contained nothing sensational but they gave the *Daily Mail* a temporary circulation boost. Other publications "authorised" by Suzanne Blum included favourable biographies of the Windsors, depicting both their life in

Paris and in the Bahamas during the war. Her constant aim was to prove that the Windsors had been very much in love to the end of their days and that the Duke had entertained no regrets over abandoning the throne. In this sense, she was a romantic as well as a very hard-headed lawyer.

Suzanne Blum, who first began working for the Duke of Windsor in 1947 after his return to France, was criticised for exploiting the Windsors, particularly during the Duchess's long decline. She denied this, saying she had taken no fees from the Duchess, to whom she was also closer than she was to the Duke. From the time of his death in 1972 she virtually ceased her normal practice to devote herself to the Windsor cause and handle the sale of various properties — a country house outside Paris, land at Marbella and ranches in Canada.

There were more accusations during a public row in the late 1980s with Mohamed Al Fayed over the contents of the house in the Bois de Boulogne. The Windsors had paid the French authorities a symbolic rent, but the ailing Duchess had allowed the place to become run down. Suzanne Blum was with her until the end. Al Fayed spent heavily on turning the property into a private museum and he was said to be interested in acquiring the jewels. These, however, were sold at a Sotheby's auction in Geneva in 1987 with the \$30 million proceeds going to the Pasteur Institute, as the Duchess had dictated. However, Al Fayed maintained that Blum had mismanaged the Windsors' affairs, particularly over the sale of the letters. She denied this fiercely. She sometimes appeared something of a haridan, but in private she was

witty and generous in her entertainment of guests. "Have another whisky, like the Duke," she would say.

Suzanne Blum was a prominent lawyer before meeting the Windsors. Her father was a provincial Jewish businessman and there was initial parental opposition to her becoming a lawyer. This changed when she became a success. Here she was aided by her brother, a journalist appointed by Léon Blum (no relation) as his chief aide at the time of the 1936 Popular Front government.

Blum, by then married to the noted lawyer Paul Weil, specialised in representing artists and writers and on various occasions she acted on behalf of Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dalí, Georges Simenon, Jean Cocteau and Charlie Chaplin, while she handled the divorce of Rita Hayworth from Prince Ali Khan and the divorces of Brigitte Bardot. Merle Oberon married Alexander Korda in her Riviera villa.

She worked for the big Hollywood film studios and once managed to reduce the \$1 million Warner Brothers had been ordered to pay Stravinsky for turning *The Firebird* into a waltz to a symbolic one franc in damages. She also acted for politicians, including some opposed to General de Gaulle. This did not prevent her handling some of de Gaulle's literary affairs. She received a number of decorations including that of Commander of the Légion d'Honneur.

Her husband died in 1965. She remarried in 1967 General Georges Spillmann. He wrote military histories, leaving his wife to write thrillers in her spare time from the Windsors. He died in 1980. In later years, Suzanne Blum lost her sight and retired to Niort. She is survived by a daughter.

MARY MOORMAN

Mary Moorman, the biographer of William Wordsworth, died on January 21 aged 88. She was born on February 19, 1905.

AS THE daughter of George Macaulay Trevelyan, Mary Moorman was heir to a strong literary tradition, on both sides of her family — her mother was the daughter of Mrs Humphry Ward. She was proud of this cultural inheritance which she reinforced with her own writings.

Mary Caroline Moorman was educated at Berkhamsted School and Somerville College, Oxford, and her first book was on a subject related to one of her father's historical interests, *William III and the Defiance of Holland, 1672-73*. It was published in 1930, the year in which she married the Rev J. R. H. Moorman, the distinguished ecclesiastical historian and later Bishop of Ripon.

The main work of her life lay in a different period, however, and prolonged study of the sources then available resulted in the two volumes of her *William Wordsworth, A Biography*, of which the first part, *The Early Years*, appeared in 1937, to be followed

in 1965 by *The Later Years* (which was awarded the James Tait Black Prize).

These two substantial volumes present a complete view of Wordsworth's career, based on thorough documentary coverage of material never previously used for biographical work on such a scale. There is a solid and shapely literary merit in each volume, even for the later and inevitably less interesting period of Wordsworth's life, and the entire work is deeply infused with the author's love for Wordsworth's countryside.

After completing the biography, Mary Moorman turned

to the revision of the standard edition of the letters of William and Dorothy Wordsworth's middle years, and she also edited a revised text of Dorothy's *Journals*. She was for many years active as a trustee of Dove Cottage, serving for some time as a forthright and decisive chairman. She resigned from the trust in 1983, after a period that had seen the rehabilitation of Dove Cottage itself, and the establishment of the Grasmere and Wordsworth Museum in excellent new premises nearby.

Her last book was a memoir of her father, for whom she had a deep affection, published in 1980. In it, she mentioned incidentally that she had applied a legacy from her father (together with a contribution from Trinity College, Cambridge) to the purchase of the National Trust of a further farm in Langdale to complete a series of family benefactions. It was characteristic of her sense of duty and quiet beneficence. She was an honorary doctor of the universities of Leeds and of Durham, where she eventually settled after Bishop Moorman's retirement from Ripon in 1975. He died in 1989 and there were no children of the marriage.

While at Cambridge he was to lead an unconventional life. Theodore Mathieson had a thoroughly conventional English education. He was sent to school at Rugby and from there went up to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where he read Natural Sciences.

While at Cambridge he was much influenced by the college chaplain, the Rev John Maycock and, encouraged by him, proceeded to train for the priesthood at Cuddesdon Theological College. He was ordained in 1935 at Wakefield, Yorkshire, served his title at

Elland and moved to the Anglo-Catholic parish of the Holy Cross, Greenford, Middlesex, in 1942.

In 1946 he sailed to India to test his vocation with the Brotherhood of the Epiphany, a celibate Anglican Order which runs the Oxford Mission in Calcutta. After more than 40 years' service he was appointed Superior of the Brotherhood in 1988.

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THE REV THEODORE MATHIESON

Father Theodore Mathieson, Superior, Brotherhood of the Epiphany in Calcutta, died in hospital in London on January 5, after surgery for cancer, aged 80. He was born on June 2, 1913.

ALTHOUGH he was to lead an unconventional life, Theodore Mathieson had a thoroughly conventional English education. He was sent to school at Rugby and from there went up to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where he read Natural Sciences.

While at Cambridge he was much influenced by the college chaplain, the Rev John Maycock and, encouraged by him, proceeded to train for the priesthood at Cuddesdon Theological College. He was ordained in 1935 at Wakefield, Yorkshire, served his title at



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FEW TRACES LEFT OF DESERT BATTLE

From Our Special Correspondent

In the 20 years since the tide of battle finally receded, "up the blue", as the Desert Rats called it, has been left of war debris — but enough remains for the search of North African coast from the Nile Delta to Cyrenaica to be indeed "this place of powerful memories".

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY

Time to round up the cowboys in suits

Raising standards has become vital, Rodney Hobson says



Kate Hook of the IMC: institute membership is voluntary

Anyone can set up as a management consultant. You just need a suit and a business card. The point is made by Rod Newing of Metapragmatics, a consultancy based at Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, and is echoed throughout the responsible end of the profession.

He says: "Consultancy is attractive because it can generate a lot of cash. But to be a good consultant needs ten to 20 years' experience, a good technical base and good general knowledge. It does attract a cowboy client who sees a chance to make money without having to pay staff and overheads, because there are no barriers to entry except the cost of a suit."

Raising quality standards among consultants is a key message of the Institute of Management Consultants, which has 3,800 individual members and 300 firms. Kate Hook, executive director, says: "For the past 30 years we

have been setting and maintaining standards, but membership is entirely voluntary and many consultants who are acting perfectly professionally have not joined."

There could be as many as 20,000 people of varying ability and integrity in Britain claiming to be management consultants. Raising and enforcing standards is difficult in a profession that is divided among various bodies. Consultants may belong to organisations such as the Institute of Personnel Management, the Chartered Institute of Management, or an accountancy institute.

The IMC was set up in 1962 by the Management Consultants Association, the trade body that has about three dozen of the larger firms as members. About half the MCA members are also in the

IMC. Miss Hook says: "We work well with the MCA and their code of practice is similar to ours. Having just one body might help, but I do not expect to see stronger government regulation of the profession."

The IMC's message is not, however, a forlorn one. More than half its members have committed themselves to undertaking continuing professional development.

The institute has also been encouraged by the fact that management consultancy has been recognised as a profession in the honours list for the first time.

Hedley Thomas, a director of Price Waterhouse Management Consultancy Services and a past president of the Institute, was awarded the OBE in the New Year list for services to management consul-

tancy in the UK and overseas.

The IMC is encouraging its members to adopt quality management standards to the international ISO9001 certification. It says this requires meeting the accepted "best practice" in the profession without forcing an extra layer of bureaucracy on the consultants.

One restriction on the cowboys is a growing sophistication among clients. Robert Birtles, managing director of Metapragmatics, says fixed-fee agreements are becoming more common instead of charging for the amount of time spent on a project.

Many clients, he says, now want consultants to demonstrate that savings can amount to more than the consultancy fees, a sensible move given that consultants can charge up to £700 a day.

The IMC says that controlling costs is now by far the most pressing business issue affecting the consultants' clients.

Despite the Government's known reluctance to impose regulation, it could still have a dramatic impact on raising professional standards. It is to launch a wide-ranging review of how government departments award consultancy work. The Cabinet Office's efficiency unit is looking at whether private consultants are giving taxpayers value for money. Senior civil servants from all government departments will be involved.

The public sector is the main client for many consultants, as Whitehall increasingly employs management consultants, as well as merchant banks and accountants, as outside advisers on big projects. Provided consultants pass the test, the Government is likely to put out an increasing amount of work.

Opening the borders

Europe is the marketplace for consultants now. The biggest firms operate like multinational companies, able to assemble a team from all over the continent to meet a client's needs anywhere.

Integrated company command networks can mobilise information technology (IT) specialists from Britain, logistics planners from Germany, local tax experts and Brussels-based specialists on the latest European Union rules and regulations. Corporate finance networks are ceaselessly monitoring potential merger and acquisition work across Europe.

Today's European management consultant is hardly a national stereotype: 45 per cent of UK-based practitioners, for example, have extensive experience working elsewhere in Europe. About 30 per cent claim to be able to work in a foreign language; 72 per cent of those say they speak French, 28 per cent German, 13 per cent Spanish and 8 per cent Italian.

UK consultancy firms have found continental Europe a happy hunting ground, offering more work and less competitive conditions than recession-hit UK. But their confidence is tinged with

David Rudnick on the skills and markets that have created opportunities in Europe for specialists facilitating change

worry that continental markets have yet to bottom in the recession, while the UK has not emerged from it. Consultancy staff employed in Europe grew by 3.6 per cent between 1991 and 1992, but remained virtually static in 1993. By sector, IT retains its dominance, accounting for nearly half of all EC-generated fee income.

According to Mark Austen, who heads professional services at consultants Price Waterhouse: "The UK and Germany are the most profitable markets in margin terms, with Spain and Italy at the bottom of the scale." Mr Austen acknowledges increasing competition from continental consultants such as Roland Berger of Germany and Cap Gemini of France, but adds: "Our biggest competitors are our clients' own management services staff."

Brian O'Rourke, director of the Management Consultants Association, estimates that 80 per cent of manufacturing consultancy is still

done within national borders. "You've got strong cultural, linguistic and sometimes legal frameworks protecting national consultancies."

In the view of Michael Grunberg, managing director of Stoy Hayward: "Territorial boundaries may be disappearing, but cultural boundaries are not." Nevertheless, as the culture of deregulation spreads across Europe, the reputation gained by UK consultancies in such areas as privatisation should stand them in good stead as Italy tackles its privatisation programme.

Stoy Hayward is a member of the European Consulting Network (ECN), a Cologne-based group of eight EC and EFTA-country firms which pool their knowhow, turning over £50 million in fee income.

The diversity of Europe's regulatory environment creates a rich soup of inconsistencies, which offers consultants gratifying scope to advise clients what they may and

may not do when entering new markets. Equally, the underlying tide of deregulation is encouraging cross-border expansion, greatly enhancing consultancy opportunities in the logistics of pan-European marketing and distribution.

Streamlining corporate management structures to reflect the new realities of the single market - Organisational Change Management in the jargon - has become a key consultancy task. Paul Bysouth of Ernst & Young explains: "Dis-mantling old nationally-based lines of control is a hard, if not brutal process. We synthesise a new pan-European structure so our client can achieve a lower cost structure and speedier response to innovation. We help with skills training and the realignment of objectives."

Nothing new in that perhaps, but the scale and pace of change in Europe's business structure are providing altogether new challenges for both consultants and their clients. Manufacturing plants are being concentrated in "focused factories"; stock is being concentrated in one or two centralised distribution centres serving large European regions. Europe's management consultants are the midwives of change as never before.



Mark Austen of Price Waterhouse: finding the UK and Germany the most profitable markets

Watch out for the new kids on the block

Peratec is a new management consultancy with a prestigious past, as ROBERT HELLER discovered

Is there any call for yet another management consultancy? Even in recession, several have been born, and each of the new births, no doubt, is convinced that its philosophy and services are unique in one way or another. The launch of Peratec really is different, though, in at least one important respect. For it is both brand new and very well established. Its parent, Pera International, was founded as a research association four decades ago, and ever since has built its reputation and business by widening its services. Those developed naturally and early into providing advice on management as well as technological issues - and this aspect of PI's consultancy work now generates a healthy fee income.

Peratec starts from and with that solid base. You can see why PI wanted to spin off its healthy child. As the demand for expert assistance has expanded, across the whole range of management concerns, it's natural that client companies should want an integrated, one-stop consultancy service. The new company will have access to all the skills and resources of the parent, but is independent in everything from staffing to marketing, and its identity is all its own.

Yet that still doesn't answer the question. Can Peratec make a significant, new, individual contribution? That is certainly the intent. The decision to establish Peratec as a self-contained, free-standing consultancy was timed to take advantage of what PI's Chief Executive, and Peratec

Chairman, Ronald Armstrong, sees as a golden opportunity for British industry. The recession in the UK has ended ahead of the rest of Europe but companies won't be able to seize their advantages unless their competitive edge is considerably sharpened. Many companies simply lack the internal management resources to sharpen up.

That's partly the result of recession



'The driving idea is to produce results not reports'

- RONALD ARMSTRONG, CHAIRMAN, PERATEC

itself. The cutback in number of senior and middle management has left a gap which has to be filled if the necessary technical and managerial progress is to be made. Under PI's previous organisation, its management consultants had already compiled a track record of effective work for leading companies, bringing strategic overview to bear on a client's problem and helping to achieve detailed implement-

ation of the solution. In doing both, Peratec can draw on the full range of essential skills - including training, marketing and design. The driving idea is to create solutions that work, that fit the client business, and that are not imposed; in a phrase, "to produce results, not reports".

This approach dovetails with the key trends that are changing the whole way in which companies are managed. Sometimes managements are conscious of these trends, in other cases, their *modus operandi* is being reshaped, not as deliberate policy, but in unavoidable response to pressures from the market and the technology of both product and process. More and more work is being carried out by ad hoc teams, in which all necessary skills are combined to carry out specific tasks.

Consultancy is project work by its very nature. Because of its background, and because of the wide mix of skills within the consultancy, Peratec is well-placed to work with internal teams - or to put together a comprehensive team to tackle projects from start to finish. Such out-sourcing is another major trend. Companies are concentrating on "core competencies" and forming close partnerships with outsiders who can meet other vital business needs.

Peratec works to assist clients in identifying and strengthening their core competencies and acts as their partner across a wide range of essential activities without which the core strengths can't be exploited. In its own recruitment, Peratec, which has 100 staff, seeks "strategic thinkers who can get their hands dirty": not theorists, but practical experts who have shown the ability to cut decisive paths through the complexities of modern industry and commerce.

Every business has become vastly more complex in recent years, and



Every manager is aware that coping with complex markets demands expertise that cannot be provided exclusively from within

consultancy basis.

The contrast here is with PI's work on technology projects on behalf of consortia of companies - the typical research association mode. This deep know-how in technology transfer, however, has

been central to PI's growth in recent years - notably in its work on collaborative projects within the European Community, and as a linchpin of the UK Government's Enterprise Scheme.

Technology transfer is one the resources that has immediate relevance to Peratec - for the key to competitive success in today's markets is the combination of management skills and technology. Both must encourage best practice. Both must be applied on the widest possible stage - a necessity which PI has taken into account in planning for its own future. Its international business, already a significant proportion, is being vigorously developed.

Armstrong is sure that client companies will have to take the same route, for success against overseas competition is the *sine qua non* of success inside. The health of the UK economy depends, even more than in the past, on the ability to compare and compete with the best in the outside world. As it assists in promoting the needed market improvement in British industry's viability and thrust - and PI's commitment to that cause is not in doubt - the launch of Peratec will justify itself with ease.

For further information contact Derek Fuller, Managing Director, Peratec Limited, Lydiard Millicent, Wilts SN5 9LS Tel 0793 772555 Fax 0793 770183

'What I like is that you recruit consultants and convert them back to real people who can be of real help to my business'

- PERATEC CLIENT

very high margins by consultancy standards, and turned losses into large profits (and a healthy cash mountain).

The future shape of PI will consist of a central hub around which revolve powerful affiliates. As a strongly based independent, Peratec is a model for this design. It is led by Derek Fuller whose distinguished career in consultancy and innovative advanced technology gives Peratec an obvious added impetus. The launch enabled the existing expertise within PI to be made available to all sectors of industry on a single-client

Managing change has become today's most foremost pre-occupation of progressive managements. The levers of change range from human resource development to product design, technology management to design and development, mergers and acquisitions to manufacturing management. All these areas are included in Peratec's skills portfolio - and very deliberately. The material of consultancy, as of management, is human.

Armstrong, who has been Chief Executive of Pera International since 1985, not surprisingly values clients' comments such as: "What I like about Peratec is that you recruit consultants from other firms and hose them down - you convert them back to real people who can be of real help to my business".

Armstrong came to PI with an impressive background in industry and international consultancy which included several senior board



Brian O'Rourke, MCA director: official Western commissions mean consultants are paid in hard currency

Dream region falters

Eastern Europe's potential is being soberly assessed, says David Rudnick

There is an unprecedented need for high-level management expertise to guide and consolidate market reform throughout Central and Eastern Europe.

Shortage of money means that much of the work is commissioned and funded by official Western agencies such as the European Union's Phare and Tacis programmes (serving Eastern Europe and the CIS respectively), the World Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Bilateral efforts such as the British Government's Know-How Fund make a small but telling contribution. Brian O'Rourke, director of the Management Consultants' Association, says: "This kind of financing is popular with consultants. It means they get paid — and in hard currency rather than hyper-inflationary money."

Demand from private-sector Western clients is said to be faltering as initial excitement at the region's business potential gives way to a more sober assessment. Recent Gallup poll findings among UK businesses identified uncertain legal and regulatory requirements, lack of currency convertibility and — most of all — political and economic uncertainty as barriers to investment. Mr O'Rourke finds there is distinctly less "missionary zeal", more a wait-and-see attitude. Sizeable business is coming in,

jointly financed by Eastern European governments and Western development agencies. Mitchell Hogg, a partner at Coopers & Lybrand, singles out sector studies in areas vital to the countries' exporting capacity and long-term industrial development as particularly important. This can mean anything from telecommunications to electronics or even agriculture. Coopers finds its Eastern European clients receptive but still occasionally handicapped by an inability to take decisions. "Even in Hungary they'll sit on the fence and debate rather than act," says James Adam, who directs regional financial services. "So it's more effective to put someone in on loan, with executive functions, to show them how to take decisions."

Western accounting methods are increasingly understood by East Europeans, but old habits of mind die hard. Says one consultant: "Old-guard Communist bosses are still running personal fiefdoms in major companies, while go-ahead people down the hierarchy are prevented from implementing our plans."

On the other hand, westernisation can bring problems. Poland's adoption of VAT last year has effectively reduced earnings for companies operating there by 20 per cent. Even so, Coopers & Lybrand says it has doubled its staff in Warsaw since 1992.

Management consultancy in Eastern Europe is not for the politically faint-hearted. "We have become a football between Western funding agencies and their recipients," says John Howell, regional specialist at Ernst & Young. "They have poured cash into consultancy programmes but without co-ordination or precise means of measuring the effectiveness of their disbursements."

He is bitter that consultants are blamed by the Eastern European authorities for the EU's protectionist attitudes. Feeling has run so high, he says, that the head of Bulgaria's privatisation agency is preparing to sack all management consultants.

To add to this, EU Commissioner Leon Brittan hinted strongly last year that the EU would be taking a far more critical view of the role of big consultancies in Eastern Europe. "So now smaller consultancies and individuals will be commissioned on a one-off basis," Mr Howell explains.

Criticism of the profits gleaned by Western management consultancies have come from both Brussels and Eastern European capitals, while the consultants attack the EU's slowness and bureaucracy. Without "any fingering", Mr Howell praises the UK Know-How Fund as "better focused and more responsive to recipients' wishes because of the political criteria built into its remit".

Ernst & Young is one consultancy firm that has established project management units in cities such as Prague and Bratislava, where corporate restructuring schemes are evaluated in collaboration with national governments.

As the Czech and Slovak model of mass privatisation spreads across Eastern Europe, it is expected to generate more consultancy work creating secondary markets for privatisation shares. Much work also remains to be done reforming the banking sector and streamlining company structures, so despite the political uncertainties, most consultants view the future with a degree of optimism.

Missionary zeal has become wait and see

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KNOW HOW

An in-house commitment to the future



Keith Burgess of Andersen Consulting: playing key role

The top fee-earner has enjoyed a strong year well ahead of its rivals

Barring a miracle, Andersen Consulting will again turn out to be Britain's top fee-earner when 1993 results are totted up, Rodney Hobson writes.

Andersen is due to produce its results in just over a month's time. Managing partner Keith Burgess says: "We do not quite have the numbers yet but we had a good year and continued to grow strongly."

Andersen has also been the UK's fastest-growing consultancy. Its UK fee income was only £64 million in 1988, when it was in third place. Last year it could well have earned four times as much, and may have earned double the fees of its nearest rival.

Mr Burgess says: "Over the past few years, and particularly through the recession, we have been tied into doing major activities that have been essential to the success of the client."

"The ones who have suffered have been smaller consultancies that only give advice, and do not get involved in actually operating the client's business. Our role is really making things happen in large organisations. Clients say, 'Don't just tell us what to do, make the changes and operate the system for us.'"

The consultancy claims it is doing well because it can act quickly and call on relevant skills from other countries. For example, work for Baltimore Gas and Electricity in America provided useful experience for a contract with Thames Water. Andersen also puts great emphasis on training, which takes up 10 per cent of revenue.

On the spread of information technology, Mr Burgess says it must be an integral part of a client's whole operation. "What the marketplace has learnt is that putting in advanced technology alone does not make for the success of the client. All you have is a very expensive technology project."

Andersen, with about 1,900

staff in the UK, took on about 125 graduates and 60 experienced staff last year, at a time when many rivals were blocking recruitment for the second year running or even letting staff go.

Some consultancies, especially smaller ones, have been increasingly farming out specialised work to freelance consultants. Others, including Andersen, prefer to stick to their own staff. Mr Burgess says: "We have made a commitment to the future. Building people is not something you can do overnight."

"It is clear from the number of redundancies in the profession that there has been excess capacity in the marketplace, and that has had an impact on fee rates. However, supply and demand are coming much more into line again now."

Consultants say that the market will resume growth as UK plc seeks to compete on the international stage. They say the pick-up is now coming in every sector spread across utilities, banking and manufacturing.

Mr Burgess, who is this year's president of the Management Consultants Association, says that the association's figures showed a slight upturn in the market during the last quarter of 1993.

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NEWS

Major takes up cudgels in taxes row

John Major yesterday launched a counter-offensive in the ferocious political battle over tax, after senior ministers and MPs criticised Kenneth Clarke's response to the wave of attacks over the increases due in April.

While voicing regret at the need to raise taxes, the Prime Minister robustly declared that they were required now to help the Government to achieve long-term economic growth. He was backed up by Michael Portillo, who promised the Commons that firm decisions now would provide the basis for longer-term prosperity. **Page 1**

Actress loses libel case

Gillian Taylor, the television soap star, and her fiancé faced the threat of financial ruin last night after losing their £500,000 libel action over a newspaper story that they took part in a sex romp on the A1. Miss Taylor was taken to hospital suffering from shock after the verdict was given. **Pages 1, 3**

Change of image

Essex, famous for its hot hatchbacks, is trying to find a new image. Despite its epoch-making traditions from Bouddica's rampage through Colchester to more recent Conservative election victories, Essex is failing to attract overseas visitors. The Essex Tourist Association has launched a competition to find a new name for the county. **Page 1**

Battling Clinton

President Clinton went into battle last night in an attempt to persuade Americans of the virtues of his health-care and anti-crime programmes. **Pages 1, 11**

Religious instruction

Ministers tried to quell the row over religious education with a pledge that guidelines would be voluntary. **Pages 1, 6**

Woman victor

Joan Brady, a little known American novelist who lives in Devon, was the surprise winner of the 1993 Whitbread Book of the Year Award last night, the first woman to win the £23,000 prize in 12 years. **Page 1**

Conflict averted

About 1.4 million public servants were heading for an inflation-busting 3 per cent pay rise after John Major drew back from confrontation over the reports of the six independent review bodies. **Page 2**

Turning meals into a real drama

A vegan playwright was accused of food fascism after the BBC agreed to ban meat from the set of his latest drama production. After protests by the 35-strong production crew of *The Helper*, by G. F. Newman, the BBC has agreed to pay them mileage and a meal allowance should they want to go off in search of meatier fare. **Page 7**

Father jailed

A father who made an emotional television appeal for his missing 23-year-old daughter to return home was jailed for life for her murder. **Page 5**

Shrinking families

The typical British household is growing smaller, and the proportion of families headed by single parents has risen to more than one in five, according to a new survey. **Page 7**

Company honours

More than half the honours awarded to industrialists over the past 13 years have gone to companies that have donated to the Tory Party, claims a new report. **Page 8**

Russian call

Russia has demanded an urgent meeting of United Nations Security Council foreign ministers to press the warlords in Bosnia into agreement. **Page 10**

Ukraine warning

President Clinton has been told Ukraine's collapsing economy will provoke ethnic conflicts that could cause more disputes over the world's third largest nuclear arsenal. **Page 11**

Kashmir offer

India has made significant proposals to Pakistan to end 47 years of hostility and bring peace to Kashmir. **Page 13**



The Prince of Wales meeting Alissa, 20, a tattooed former heroin addict, at the Sydney City Mission yesterday. **Report, page 12**

BUSINESS

Industry: A further 1,400 jobs were axed by British industry when Fisons, the drugs and medical equipment company, announced 1,000 job losses at its pharmaceutical arm and British Aerospace added 400 to its rising tally of redundancies. **Page 25**

Economy: Recovery has started to feed through into construction, according to the latest government figures. **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 37.4 to close at 3444.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index slipped from \$2.8 to \$2.6 reflecting a fall from \$1.4960 to \$1.4938. **Page 28**

SPORTS

Football: England's manager is expected to be named tomorrow. Terry Venables, the main contender, held talks with the Football Association last night, but a caretaker may yet be appointed. **Page 48**

American football: The destiny of the Super Bowl lies at the feet of Eddie Murray, place-kicker for the Dallas Cowboys. **Page 43**

Cricket: England had mixed fortunes on the third day of their first tour match of the Caribbean. They dismissed Antigua for 360, but Steve Watkins, the Glamorgan fast bowler, was ruled out of the match with a back strain. **Pages 46, 48**

DANGEROUS TO KNOW

The entertainment industry will always pay up rather than tarnish its glossy image. Giles Whittell on Michael Jackson. **Page 13**

Essex bile: Fed up with joke-smiths traducing the purity of its girls, Essex is demanding a new image. Libby Purves on the county's crisis. **Page 14**

Filling up: Texaco is planning a service station without petrol. Alan Mitchell on the sweeping changes transforming oil companies' marketing. **Page 32**

Ballet star's new steps

Irek Mukhametov, the Royal Ballet's leading male dancer, has ditched his feet. He says his own company will give him the chance to perform the kind of adventurous roles denied to him at Covent Garden. **Page 37**

Play it, Herman: Next week is the centenary of Herman Hupfeld, the scarcely recognised man who wrote one of the world's most celebrated songs — *As Time Goes By*, of *Casablanca* fame. **Page 37**

Gracing Woburn: A new book boosts the case for Canova's *The Three Graces* to be restored to their Woburn home. **Page 39**

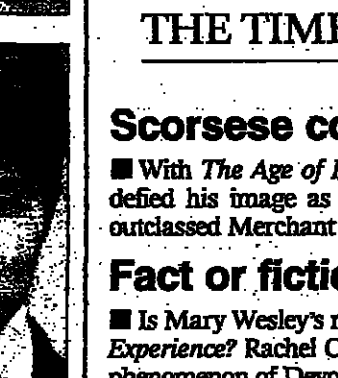
PEOPLE IN THE TIMES



President Yeltsin of Russia has ended his 37-year marriage and left his mistress in an effort to save his position as head of state. **Page 11**



Janet Sheppard revealed how an erroneous letter from the Child Support Agency nearly brought her 13-year marriage to an end. **Page 2**



Jane Brown, the head teacher who prevented pupils from seeing a Romeo and Juliet ballet, has been recommended for suspension. **Page 2**

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Scorsese comes of age

With *The Age of Innocence*, Martin Scorsese has defied his image as a maker of low-life films, and outclassed Merchant Ivory in period sumptuousness.

Fact or fiction?

Is Mary Wesley's new novel really *An Imaginative Experience*? Rachel Cusk on the latest work from the phenomenon of Devon.

Living in fear of tourists

Nomadic Berber and Tuareg tribesmen believe their way of life is threatened by tourism. Bill Frost reports from Morocco.

The mystic monk Rasputin is the subject of a revealing reappraisal in *Timewatch: The Real Rasputin* (BBC2, 8pm). **Page 47**

Less hot air...

There is no obvious reason why greenhouse gas emissions in Britain should be considerably greater than in France. **Page 17**

Classroom lessons

It is important that very young children are not overburdened by ideas and stories from too many different faiths. **Page 17**

Silent warriors

Humanity cannot always bear to know too much. Nikolai Ogarkov, one of the last Soviet marshals, would have agreed. **Page 17**

SIMON JENKINS

This week the Flooray Herries have been out of their depth. They have stopped deploring the nation's sex life, the underclass poor or dams in Malaysia — about which they know nothing. They are talking about money. **Page 16**

EDWARD NORMAN

The real worry about the curriculum guidelines concerns the provision that half the space should be given to Christianity. **Page 16**

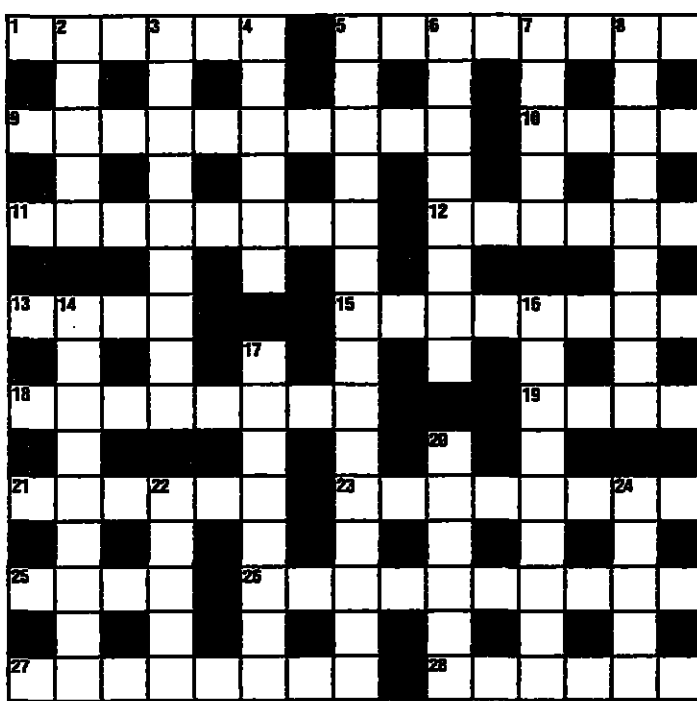
Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, Chief of the Soviet General Staff, 1977-84; Maître Suzanne Bism, lawyer for the Duke and Duchess of Windsor; Mary 'Moo' Moore, biographer of William Wordsworth; Rev. Father Theodore Marileon, Superior, Brotherhood of the Epiphany in Calcutta. **Page 19**

A Tory researcher lists the left-wing causes supported by George Galloway. **Page 17**

Bill Clinton stands highest when he trains his attention on a tightly focused agenda; he suffers most when he indulges his natural inclination to move in a thousand policy directions at once.

— *The New York Times*
Many nations view the demand that they abandon their nuclear ambitions as the hypocritical goal of countries that have arrived.
— *USA Today*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,449



- ACROSS**
- 1 With which shooting by gunners occurred? (6)
 - 5 Sounds like a leading team running along by the wharf? (8)
 - 9 Long to board Welsh vessel — it's enchanting (10)
 - 10 In old age it's a source of effortless proof (5)
 - 11 French department extremely suitable for an Austrian? (8)
 - 12 How to make one's mark, adding to the score? (6)
 - 13 Pole in dispute (4)
 - 15 Half of them originally on commission making a return (8)
 - 18 Examples of free mince pies — one I abandoned (8)
 - 19 Displace judge from tilting tournament (4)
 - 21 Strange chap having party by dam (6)
- DOWN**
- 23 Animal no one wants to keep if its white (8)
 - 25 A lot of water in the outfield (4)
 - 26 Begin a month in a routine manoeuvre nonetheless (10)
 - 27 Dull setting for Dickensian character's servile work (8)
 - 28 The element of music Gershwin found fascinating (6)
 - 2 Defence one associated with Gladstone, for example (5)
 - 3 Character caught with petty cash in Farrar's story (9)
 - 4 Sportsman showing more artfulness (6)
 - 5 3's money carried by new quarry at an anniversary (15)
 - 6 One's freedom to have a car and no yacht (8)
 - 7 Swimmer rested, having rounded ends of pier (5)
 - 8 They measure the depth of Charon's river, say, after a bathe (9)
 - 14 He may be hand in glove with his models (9)
 - 16 Like Malcolm and Donalban, relatively speaking (9)
 - 17 Motionless crowd in eight-furlong race (8)
 - 20 He may cage food in a pub (6)
 - 22 Free porridge initially consumed after a fast? (5)
 - 24 Nick's degree (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,448

HEDGE RENDERING
PARTHENON TITLE
E I D S E R A
RADIO OUTQUOTED
B P W O D
ORATION PENGUIN
L T A E C E
ANTONYM LOWGEAR
E U O M E V
MANIFESTO APPLE
I D I T S R L L
LEARN CHECKMATE
A N E A L E N
NATURALLY TREKS

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 501 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
London & SE	701
East Angles	702
North & NW	703
West & SW	704
Wales & NW	705
Wales & SW	706
Wales & NW	707
Wales & SW	708
Wales & NW	709
Wales & SW	710
Wales & NW	711
Wales & SW	712
Wales & NW	713
Wales & SW	714
Wales & NW	715
Wales & SW	716
Wales & NW	717
Wales & SW	718
Wales & NW	719
Wales & SW	720
Wales & NW	721
Wales & SW	722
Wales & NW	723
Wales & SW	724
Wales & NW	725
Wales & SW	726
Wales & NW	727
Wales & SW	728
Wales & NW	729
Wales & SW	730

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road-works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
London & SE	731
East Angles	732
North & NW	733
West & SW	734
Wales & NW	735
Wales & SW	736
Wales & NW	737
Wales & SW	738
Wales & NW	739
Wales & SW	740
Wales & NW	741
Wales & SW	742
Wales & NW	743
Wales & SW	744
Wales & NW	745
Wales & SW	746
Wales & NW	747
Wales & SW	748
Wales & NW	749
Wales & SW	750

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun sets: 4.58 am
Moon sets: 3.52 pm
Full moon tomorrow
London 4.38 pm to 7.48 am
Bristol 4.49 pm to 7.57 am
Edinburgh 4.55 pm to 8.19 am
Manchester 4.40 pm to 8.04 am
Penzance 5.06 pm to 8.05 am

GENERAL: ENGLAND AND WALES

General: England and Wales will start frosty dry with some sun. Patchy light rain will move into W areas during the morning, reaching the E by the end of the afternoon. Northern Ireland and W Scotland will turn cloudy with rain during the morning. Eastern parts may be bright at first, with rain reaching those areas in the afternoon. In the evening it will turn cold and showery in northern Scotland. It will be a blustery day with gales in places.

SE and E England, East Angles: Some sun at first, patchy light rain spreading E, during the afternoon. Wind W to NW, fresh, strong at first. Max 6C (48F).

Cent S and cent N England, Midlands, Channel Is: Some early sunshine, then mostly cloudy with patchy, light rain.

Wales, fresh, strong at first. Max 6C (48F). SW and NW England, Wales: Mostly cloudy, some light rain or drizzle. Wind W, fresh, strong at first. Max 10C (50F).

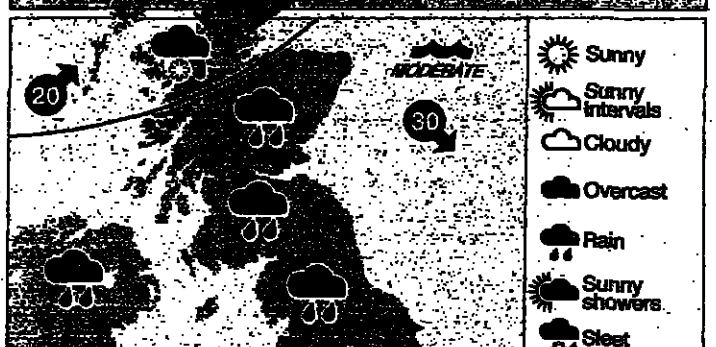
London, NW England, Scotland from Borders to Shetland: Mostly fine at first, rain, heavy at times, spreading E during the day. Wind NW fresh, occasionally strong. Max 6C (43F).

Wales, fresh, strong at first. Max 6C (48F). SW and NW England, Wales: Mostly cloudy, some light rain or drizzle. Wind W, fresh, strong at first. Max 10C (50F).

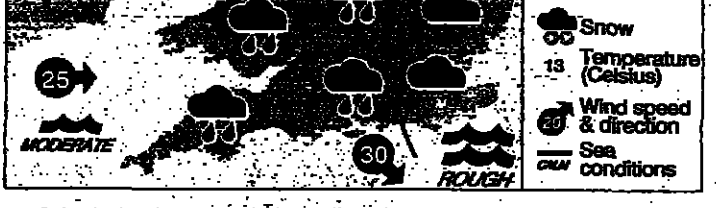
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CHANGES TO THE CHART BELOW FROM MONDAY



Changes to the chart below from Monday: Low F will start to fill and drift E, and low D will also start to fill. High D will decline slightly in situ.



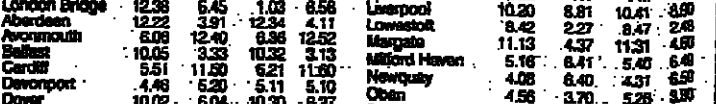
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Journal 150



MEDIA 32, 33

Vive la change:
France's colourful
new tabloid



ARTS 37-39

The troubled ballet
star leaping in
a new direction



SPORT 43-48

Crawley emerges
from English
cricket's shadows

HIGH RISK,
HIGH-RISE
FLATS
Homes 35

THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26 1994



The Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency has been named employer of the year by the Working Mothers Association. Avril Beynon, DVLA head of personnel, received the trophy for the agency's initiatives that include a holiday play scheme, workplace nursery and enhanced leave for parents

Sharp jump in construction orders greeted with caution

By COLIN NARBROUGH

RECOVERY has clearly started to feed through to construction, the industry worst hit by the recession, according to Government figures, which show a sharp jump in orders placed with building firms.

Provisional figures from the Department of the Environment, covering the period from September to November, report a 14 per cent rise after seasonal adjustment in overall orders, compared with the previous three months, and a 23 per cent year-on-year gain.

City estimates for the final quarter last year point to strong growth in output in the building trade, with housing projects about a third higher than for the same period in 1992. Private housing and industrial construction orders were up 14 per cent and 22 per cent respectively in the September-November period, compared with 1992, they were 38 per cent and 28 per cent higher. But the biggest surge came in public works, up 54 per cent over the latest three months and 10 per cent higher year-on-year.

Construction is typically slow to pick up after a recession. Public housing and housing association orders fell 13 per cent in the latest three months, but still remained 15 per cent higher than a year before. Private commercial construction orders were down slightly over the latest period, but showed year-on-year growth of 19 per cent.

Industry analysts were not overwhelmed by the figures, underlining that the data are notoriously "lumpy". Given the overhang of existing empty property in the market, the construction sector is still not expected to have achieved an increase in output for the whole of 1993. But the rising inflow of orders points to renewed growth this year.

David Taylor, construction analyst at UBS, expects output to grow by about 1 per cent overall this year, with housing up 8 to 9 per cent in real terms, and industrial sector orders up 5 to 7 per cent. Commercial property is likely to be flat. But he believes that the Government's curbs on public spending will this year lead to a fall in public sector construction works, except in housing, despite the effect the start of the Jubilee Underground extension will have in helping offset the end of the Channel tunnel among the main schemes. Although the £1.7 billion Underground scheme by no means matches the scale of the £10 billion Channel tunnel, it is only the first of several large public works projects due to come on stream over the next few years.

Mr Taylor commented that the prospect of tighter public spending as the economy recovers, after substantial public expenditure on construction during the recession, suggests that Government policy was appropriately anti-cyclical. "But the question is whether it was by design or accident," Mr Taylor said.

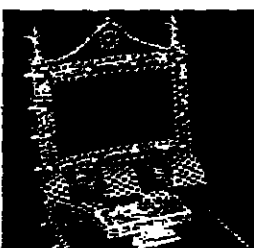
Official measures of unemployment in the leading economies are understating the true extent of joblessness as they do not take account of "discouraged workers", who no longer actively seek work because they believe their job chances are too low, according to a study by American Express Bank. It estimates that the unemployment rate in Britain is about 12.6 per cent, instead of the less than 10 per cent reported by the Government. American unemployment is put at 9.3 per cent, instead of the official 6.4 per cent, while Japan's rate is increased to 9.6 per cent from 2.7 per cent.

World trade, page 26

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS
TODAY

WAITING



Lorho has two empty chairs. One is the decorative Ashanti stool (above), the other awaits a new chairman. Report, page 27
Pennington, page 27

PAYING

Public sector pay may follow tax rises as the Government's next economic difficulty. The review bodies are set to report. Page 29

TALKING



Bremer Vulkan, the German shipbuilder, opened talks with receivers to Swan Hunter about rescuing the Tyneside shipyard. Page 26

VALUING

Fortis has valued its airport services division at £211 million in a stock market flotation announced yesterday. Page 28, Tempus 29

Insurers in UK face big Ariane bill

LLOYD's and other UK insurers face minimum losses of £40 million after Monday's crash of the Ariane rocket - the biggest ever satellite loss. However, as the world's biggest reinsurance market is in London, further reinsurance claims are expected to emerge, the bulk of them with Lloyd's (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The rocket's two telecommunications satellites had insurance cover of £236 million, placed around the world by Faugère et Juteau, a French insurance broker. A spokesman for the brokerage said that Britain, France, Italy, Germany, and the US each had about a sixth of the insurance placed, with the remaining sixth spread elsewhere in the world.

One satellite, Turksat-1A, was Turkey's first national satellite, but still belonged to its manufacturer, Aerospatiale, until safely placed in orbit. The other, Eutelsat-1F5, belongs to the European Telecommunications Organisation. This was the first Ariane failure in 28 launches. Two Japanese satellites were lost when a 1990 launch failed.

Fisons and BAe to shed 1,400 jobs

By SARAH BAGNALL

A FURTHER 1,400 jobs were shed yesterday by British industry. Fisons, the drugs and medical equipment company, announced that it was cutting 1,000 staff at its pharmaceutical arm and British Aerospace added 400 to its rising tally of redundancies.

The Fisons job cuts, up to 700 of which will be in the UK, follow a tough five-month review of the division's operations by Coopers & Lybrand, the firm of accountants. Last month, the Fisons share price fell sharply when the company sacked Cedric Scroggs, its chief executive, issued a profits warning and halved its dividend.

BAe's cuts, at the Royal Ordnance subsidiary in Chorley, Lancashire, follows 510 job losses in its missiles division and 830 at three civil aircraft plants, announced in the past two weeks.

Fisons' job losses will be phased in over two years and will cut the pharmaceuticals division's worldwide workforce from 6,400 to 5,400. The UK job losses, 250 of which will be at the group's main

The success of the rationalisation is critical to Fisons pharmaceutical business and should secure the future of the Holmes Chapel site in Cheshire. The shares rose

manufacturing site at Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, will reduce the workforce from 2,400 to about 1,700.

The job losses, coupled with changes in work methods and restructuring of businesses, will reduce the company's costs by £35 million, £10 million more than was indicated in December. The savings will begin to emerge this year but most will not feed through until 1995. The restructuring will cost £10 million in 1994 and £5 million in 1995.

A Fisons spokesman said: "Profits in 1994 will be hit by £10 million of costs but will benefit from £20 million of cost savings. And 1995 profits will be hit by £5 million of costs but will benefit by £30 million of cost savings."

One of the most senior jobs to go is that of the pharmaceuticals division's marketing director, which results from a

decision to thin out management. The company said: "We are taking out layers of management between Mike Redwood, the division's managing director, and his general managers." Fisons is also scrapping the division's board of ten directors, replacing it with an executive team of six.

Other cost savings will come from rationalising the processes through which a product passes from manufacture to reaching the customer. The review revealed ways of improving efficiency, such as centralising the purchasing of research data. "There is no area of the business that has been left untouched," the company said.

Mr Redwood said: "The success of this initiative is critical to the long-term health of Fisons' pharmaceutical business." Referring to the job losses at Holmes Chapel, he said: "It is regrettable that we

have to reduce the size of the workforce but these measures are being taken to secure the plant's future and at the same time ensure a continued flow of high-quality pharmaceutical products."

As part of the restructuring, the manufacture of a range of products, such as anti-allergy nasal sprays and eye drops, is to be transferred to Fisons' manufacturing plant at Le Trait, near Rouen, in France.

The pharmaceuticals division is the largest contributor to Fisons' group profits. In 1992, it made a trading profit of £71 million on turnover of £427 million.

IBCA, the international rating agency, has downgraded Fisons' short-term rating to A2 and its long-term rating to BBB+, just five months after it last downgraded the company.

The agency said last month's announcements by Fisons "reveal further management failings and compound the vulnerability of the company as a small player in the global pharmaceuticals market."

Tempus, page 29

Mirror pensioners' case against banks begins

By PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A HIGH Court claim by Mirror Group pensioners for damages of £200 million against three City banks that had dealings with the late Robert Maxwell will be heard this morning.

The hearing, was due to start yesterday afternoon, but Mr Justice Rattee, the judge, agreed to a delay at the request of the pensioners' counsel. The six teams of barristers acting for the defendants and other parties involved in the case agreed to the adjournment. The case is likely to last

six months and involves nine QCs and ten junior barristers. Invesco and Capel-Cure Myers, the UK fund managers, and Lehman Brothers, the American investment bank, are fighting the claim.

The claim alleges that the three institutions should have been aware of Mr Maxwell's activities when dealing with businesses run by him while he was plundering his companies' pension funds.

The black hole in the Mirror's pension fund is estimated at £250 million. The pension fund trustees are considering claims against other

banks that had links with Mr Maxwell. Observers have not ruled out a settlement between the pension trustees and banks. Last month, Bank of America said that it would pay £25 million to the Mirror Group Newspapers pension scheme.

The banks have had meetings with Sir Peter Webster, the former High Court judge appointed to help find a "global solution".

Yesterday, three banks failed in a bid to force Macmillan to pay indemnity costs - the highest level of court costs - for the High Court action in which Macmillan failed to recover

ownership of Berlitz International shares worth \$137 million. Mr Justice Millett, who recently ruled against Macmillan after a ten-month trial, dismissed an application by Lehman Brothers, Swiss Volksbank and Credit Suisse, the successful defendants, for this level of costs.

Indemnity costs would have added about 10 per cent to the bill for the action, which involved seven top QCs, their juniors and large teams of leading solicitors. No firm estimates of the likely costs have yet been made, but preliminary assessments indicate that the total could exceed £10 million.

STOCK MARKET		THE POUND		GOLD	
FT-SE 100 3444.0 -37.4	DOW JONES 3880.15 -23.64	US \$ 1.4938 -0.0022	DM 2.6182 +0.0002	3382.25 per oz.	BRENT CRUDE \$14.10 per barrel (Mar)
LONDON CLOSING PRICES		MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 28, SHARE PRICES PAGE 31			

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USAir cuts losses but still flies in the red

By Philip Robinson
and Colin Nabbrough

USAIR, the American carrier in which British Airways is seeking to raise its voting stake from the current 21 per cent, was still flying in the red last year, albeit with substantially reduced losses. Seth Schofield, the USAir chairman and chief executive, said.

Despite competition from low cost carriers forcing price cuts of up to 80 per cent last year, net losses came down from \$1.2 billion to \$993.1 million. But progress in forging the transatlantic alliance with BA is being hindered by pressure from American airlines keen to gain increased access to Heathrow, Europe's premier hub airport.

BA is not alone in facing difficulties

with the American authorities over an alliance with a US carrier. Jürgen Weber, Lufthansa's management board chairman, flew urgently to Washington yesterday to try to persuade the Clinton Administration to sign into force an American-German air transport accord that would allow the state-controlled German carrier's strategic cooperation pact with United Airlines (UAL) to start immediately.

USAir showed a \$23.7 million profit at the operating level, compared with a \$223.1 million loss, and turnover climbed from \$6.7 billion to \$7.1 billion. Mr Schofield said the financial results remain unsatisfactory. He had given warning that the airline, America's fifth largest, would lose money in the final quarter and the year as a whole. But the figures

were better than expected and the shares added 12.5 cents to \$15.125.

Mr Schofield said: "To enhance USAir's ability to compete with low-cost low-fare airlines, we are taking action to reduce our costs and improve the productivity of our assets and personnel. Next month the airline will introduce a new plan to improve efficiency in the highly competitive short-haul market. It will cut aircraft turnaround time from 45 to 25 minutes on services linking 18 cities raising daily departures by 17 per cent. USAir plans similar changes on international routes this year.

USAir's net income was hit by a \$156.2 million one-off charge to cover health care costs and redundancy payments on some of the 2,500 job cuts announced last September. Over the past 12 months BA and USAir

have pressed ahead with plans to merge their operations. They now fly as a single airline on a number of international routes and have started a parcels delivery service.

Unlike Britain, Germany has signed a new bilateral aviation deal, negotiated with the Americans last October, which should have allowed Lufthansa and its US partner to go ahead with their code-sharing and other plans from January 10. But the US department of transportation, under pressure from American carriers, has failed so far to put its name to the accord. In BA's case, the American aviation authorities have linked progress in deepening the alliance with USAir to Washington's goal of gaining more access to Heathrow for US carriers.

Herr Weber is aiming to prove

protests from American Airlines and Delta, UAL's main American rivals, against the Lufthansa-UAL pact are unjustified. He hopes to convince the Clinton Administration it would be better to resolve the aviation issue urgently to prevent it becoming an issue during Chancellor Kohl's forthcoming visit to Washington.

Herr Weber made clear before flying to America yesterday he believes Lufthansa could enter co-operation pacts in Europe too, naming Austrian Airlines and its rival Lunda Air as potential partners. Lufthansa has a stake in Lunda Air and opened co-operation talks with Austrian Airlines even before the proposed "Alcazar" alliance of Scandinavian Airlines System and the Austrian, Dutch and Swiss national carriers collapsed last year.

Germans may bid for Swan Hunter

A takeover of Swan Hunter would be for strategic considerations and not on a purely economic basis as shipbuilding, according to industry observers

By A Correspondent

BREMER Vulkan, the German shipbuilder, yesterday began talks with the receivers of Swan Hunter Shipbuilders to see whether it can put together a rescue bid.

A takeover could provide Bremer Vulkan with a stepping stone to bid for the Horizon naval project being considered by France, Britain and Italy. This project calls for 12 new frigates, to enter service at the turn of the century.

Price Waterhouse, Swan Hunter's receivers, confirmed that talks had started in London. The firm could not say how long these would last but emphasised that no definite bid was on the table.

The talks are the first with Bremer Vulkan since December 21, when Tyneside-based Swan Hunter became eligible for EC intervention aid for 9 per cent of the costs of new ships. Bremer Vulkan had said it would be unwilling to come to the rescue if Swan Hunter did not qualify for structural aid.

At least two other companies have held talks with the receivers. Reports have suggested that Constructions Mécaniques de Normandie (CMN), of Cherbourg, France's only private shipyard, GEC and AMEC are also considering bids. VSEL, the British builder of Trident

submarines, has confirmed it has had talks with the receivers about taking over work but has said it does not plan a bid.

Swan Hunter went into receivership last May. Its financial situation became untenable after it had lost out in the bidding for a Ministry of Defence order for a helicopter carrier. Of the original 2,400 staff, only 1,000 are still employed, finishing an order for Type 23 frigates.

The receivers have been trying to run the company as a going concern, with lower staff levels, but suffered a setback when Swan also lost an Omani order for patrol boats.

The shipbuilding industry is suffering from overcapacity, despite closures and substantial job losses. The most recent closure was Liverpool's Cammell Laird. Any takeover of Swan Hunter would be for strategic considerations and not on a purely economic basis, industry observers said.

CMN could use a British base to obtain any MoD orders or to improve its export position in former British colonies against Vosper Thornycroft. British candidates for a Swan bid could be motivated by the desire to keep foreign competitors at bay and improve their negotiating stance with the MoD for future orders.



About 1,400 of the original 2,400 employees have been made redundant since Swan Hunter went into receivership

Ofgas chief says energy levy amounts to a regressive tax

By Ross Titeman, Industrial Correspondent

THE gas industry regulator hit out at Government proposals for a £750 million energy efficiency levy on gas consumers, saying it was not her job to impose a "regressive tax."

Clare Spottiswoode told members of the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee that it was Parliament's responsibility to impose and administer taxes, not hers. She told the committee that she was "insufficiently accountable."

Ms Spottiswoode, who was appointed last November to succeed Sir James McKinnon, will meet Tim Eggar, the energy minister, this week to express her disquiet.

Her doubts crystallised after she studied two proposals from the Government's Energy Savings Trust, which

call for Ofgas to raise £750 million from gas customers between now and the end of the century.

"I completely agree that energy efficiency should be dealt with," she said. "It is a very important issue."

But "what I object to is being asked as a regulator to impose a policy on the gas industry that is a regressive tax. I am not accountable to the market. I don't think that is enough for being asked to raise three-quarters of a billion pounds."

British Gas has already introduced two schemes with Ofgas approval under the auspices of the E-factor levy. Ms Spottiswoode said that such subsidy schemes "are benefiting the wealthy who can afford to change boilers or

whatever". But the cost was shared by poorer customers, who were already obliged to spend a larger than average proportion of their income on energy to keep warm.

The remarks will embarrass the Government, which yesterday sought to reinforce its green credentials by publishing details of its plans to meet UK targets to limit global warming. But they also confirm Ms Spottiswoode, a former Treasury mandarin and self-made businesswoman, as an independent-minded regulator. Appearing before the select committee for the first time yesterday, to review her role objectives as a regulator, Ms Spottiswoode promised an announcement this week on the formula that limits British Gas's prices.

Optimistic outlook for world trade

By Colin Nabbrough
World Trade Correspondent

WORLD trade grew by less than 3 per cent last year, compared with expectations of about 4.5 per cent, but the outlook for the current year has improved, trade envoys in Geneva were told.

Balkrishnan Zutshi, the Indian chairman of the 115 member countries of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), said there were grounds for optimism this year, after the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round last month, and signs of recovery in the recession-hit economies of western Europe.

Mr Zutshi said both global economic output, which rose slightly to 2 per cent, and world trade, remained well below average for the previous decade, confirming the slow-down that began in 1989.

He said that the conclusion last month of world trade talks would restore consumer and investor confidence in regions affected by recessionary conditions, thereby reinforcing the positive trends seen in developing regions and newly industrialised countries.

Fifty countries are expected today to adopt a compromise treaty to conserve tropical timber, according to United Nations sources in Geneva. The treaty will succeed the 1983 International Tropical Timber Agreement.

Tempos, page 29

Pennington, page 27

IBM returns to the black

By A Correspondent

DEEP cuts in spending and the elimination of 89,000 jobs over two years helped IBM, the American computer group, to report its first quarterly profit since the summer of 1992. IBM said it earned \$382 million in the final three months of 1993, or 62 cents a share, in line with market expectations.

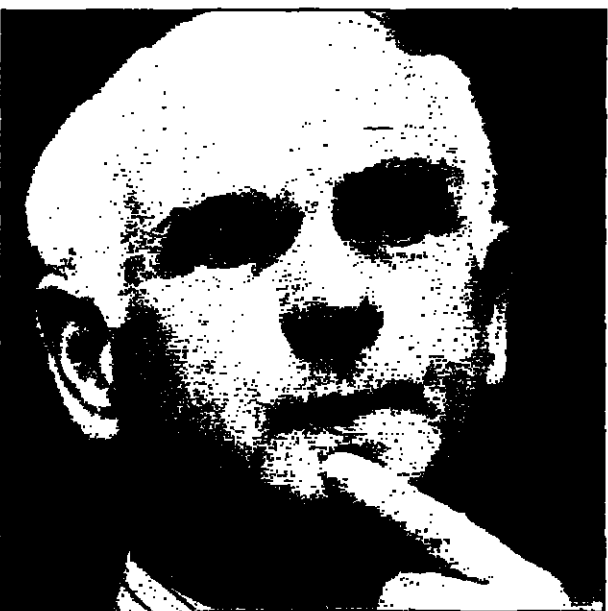
The performance caps the worst year in the history of IBM. Special charges for sev-

erance and other restructuring costs led to an \$8 billion loss for 1993.

The company said sales of personal computers and workstations were up, but sales of mainframes, the big machines that for years provided most of IBM's profit, fell. As a result, revenue in the final quarter fell to \$19.6 billion from \$19.9 billion a year ago, continuing a pattern that has troubled some observ-

ers. Revenue grew 9 per cent in America but, when adjusted for currency rates, was down 1 per cent in Europe and 4 per cent in Asia. Such drops take greater significance because the company derives about 60 per cent of its revenue abroad.

For the full year, IBM's loss amounted to \$14.02 per share. In 1992, the company lost \$6.9 billion, or \$12.03 per share.



Howard Davies, Director-General of the CBI

CBI sees changed role for unions in the workplace

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITISH business is not pursuing an anti-union offensive, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday — but there is increasingly a "shared wish" among employers and employees for workplace relations on a different basis to traditional union dealings.

The largely union-supportive statement from the CBI, where Howard Davies is Director-General, contrasted sharply with a similar statement last week from the free-market Institute of Directors which called for further legal restrictions on trade unions.

But in its evidence to the all-party Commons Employment Committee's enquiry into the future of trade unions, published last night, the CBI said that many employers worked closely with trade unions and

found the relationship satisfactory. But higher skills levels and the need to secure full commitment in highly competitive trading climates pointed to a "new relationship".

Increasingly, employers were dealing with employees on an individual basis. In some cases this led logically to the derecognition of unions for collective bargaining purposes, with some employers funding the contribution of unions to changes necessary to ensure business survival and future prosperity "slow and incomplete at best".

But moves towards such union derecognitions were not driven by employers, the CBI said: "There is no evidence that employers have generally been forcing the pace: more commonly it reflects a shared

wish in the workplace for dealings on a different basis."

Claiming few employers were against union recognition, the CBI said individual relations at work often complemented rather than replaced collective arrangements.

More harmonious relations at work and greater involvement at the workplace provided "positive" reasons for employees to be less interested in union membership, which had fallen from 13 million in 1979 to 9.5 million now.

Business suspected the tendency of employees to seek protection in collective strength "may well be in secular rather than cyclical decline", the CBI said, though employers did see scope for a continuing role for unions in workplace representation.

Employers' views of a role for unions rested on their adapting to a range of developments. These included a "sizeable proportion" of employees being in membership and the union clearly articulating their wishes; unions working in harmony with other workplace bodies, including non-union arrangements; being committed to the success of the enterprise; and being ready to offer constructive and co-operative leadership with difficult problems at work.

But the CBI gave warning that the future role for trade unions "must never again include the capacity to disrupt the commercial and day-to-day life of the nation and to exercise excessive influence over Government expenditure during the late 1970s".

Frenchman takes key post at Euro institute

ROBERT Raymond, a senior official at the French central bank, is next month to be formally appointed as the first director-general of the European Monetary Institute (EMI), the Frankfurt-based forerunner of the proposed European central bank, having beaten the top German contender to the job. Approval of M Raymond, scheduled for a meeting of central bank governors in Basle on February 8, will mean that France has secured the key operational post at the EMI, as Alexandre Lamfalussy, the Belgian chosen as its first president, foresees his own role being remote from the day to day business. M Raymond, 60, was head of the French central bank's research department for most of the 1980s, and since 1990 has headed its credit department.

Meanwhile, Bundesbank council member Reinmut Jochimsen yesterday gave warning against recent signs of more radical currency policy in Europe as a reason to rush into a single currency. He said that it was important first to clarify the goal of currency union.

Banesto rescue plan

PLANS for plugging a gap estimated at 620 billion pesetas (almost £3 billion) in the finances of Banco Español de Crédito (Banesto), Spain's fourth-biggest bank, were presented to the country's main banks, which are being asked to fund the lion's share of the rescue scheme. The outlines of the plan drawn up by Alfredo Sáenz Abad, who was appointed to head Banesto after the entire board was ousted by the authorities on December 28, was approved by Luis Angel Rojo, the central bank governor, at the weekend.

Domino payout rises

A SHORTFALL in expected sales in North America depressed profits at Domino Printing Sciences, the ink-jet printer manufacturer, although directors lifted the total dividend as a sign of confidence. In the 12 months to October 31, the company saw pre-tax profits fall to £9.1 million against £11.9 million last time, although the dividend rises 10.4 per cent to 7.95p (7.20p) via a 5.3p final. Gerald Dennis, chairman, said the US economic recovery proved to be slower than expected and this had caused profits to fall.

Good quarter for Merck

MERCK, the American pharmaceuticals group, increased fourth-quarter net profits 11 per cent to \$674.2 million on increased sales of \$3 billion. Earnings edged ahead to 56 cents a share (53 cents). For the whole of 1993, net profits grew to \$2.17 billion (\$1.98 billion), on sales up 9 per cent to \$10.5 billion. Earnings rose to \$1.87 a share (\$1.72). Both the fourth quarter and full-year figures include the dilutive effects of buying Medco Containment. Excluding this, fourth-quarter net earnings were \$703.8 million, Merck said.

Clayhithe reduces loss

CLAYHITHE, the investment company, cut losses from £1.1 million to £210,000 in the six months to September 30. In future, it will focus on electronics and engineering. The group is selling Best Inspection, which makes weight-checking machines for the food and drugs industries, for £1.7 million to Graseby, the electronics group. As part of the deal, Graseby's stockbroker is buying from Clayhithe the new Graseby shares that are financing the deal. Clayhithe is maintaining its interim dividend at 0.75p.

MISG to seek listing

MCDONNELL Information Systems Group, formed from a management buyout from McDonnell Douglas last March, is to seek a Stock Exchange listing via a placing and offer for sale expected to exceed £150 million. The group supplies software applications and support services. The flotation is likely to take place before April, with the issue comprising mainly new equity. The proceeds will be used to pay off debt incurred from the £120 million buyout, and redeem existing preference shares.

Sales boom at Cantors

CANTORS, the furniture group, reported a satisfactory start to its winter sale as it announced more-than-trebled profits. In the half year to October 23, pre-tax profits climbed to £563,000 (£175,000) and the interim dividend is held at 1p. Earnings per share rose to 2.42p from 0.76p previously. Sales were up just 4 per cent in the period to £29.83 million from £28.71 million at the Sheffield group. Harold Cantor, chairman, said the Budget had created uncertainty and had made trading since the end of the reporting period difficult.

Menvier lifts dividend

MENVIER-SWAIN, the emergency lighting and fire alarm group, said expected progress in the UK in the rest of its financial year may be offset partly by the recession in continental Europe. However, it said overall it expected the full-year performance to improve on last time. Menvier's comments came as it disclosed pre-tax profits jumped 28 per cent to £4 million in the six months to October 31. Earnings per share rose 14 per cent to 5.6p (4.9p), and the interim dividend is increased to 1.3p (1.1p).

EDS buys into Ibos

ELECTRONIC Data Systems, the Dallas technology group, is to take an equity stake in Ibos, the cross-border banking system set up by Royal Bank of Scotland and Banco Santander, the Spanish bank. Under the agreement, the three companies will own equal shares in the London-based Ibos, with a minority stake held by Goldman Sachs, the company's financial adviser. The two banks have invested £8 million in Ibos since 1991. EDS is thought to be paying a premium for its one-third stake.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26 1994

□ Dieter Bock's £80 million paper profit □ Hidden weakness in the spending plans □ The hard work is starting for Gatt

Rowland dwells on the end-game

IT IS DIFFICULT not to conclude, in the wake of yesterday's boardroom developments at Lonrho, that Tiny Rowland, who has presided over the trading conglomerate's unconventional style of international deal making for more than 30 years, will now embark on the end-game.

Rowland's games — often punctuated by spontaneous diversions of eyebrow-raising capacity — are seldom easy to read: the more so this time round because Rowland's options, inevitably, cannot be dissociated from Dieter Bock's on-going strategy. Enigma versus enigma.

Not that Bock's first year on Lonrho's board, come next month, has been lacking in strategy. The flag of corporate governance has, justly, been raised: enter a trio of non-executives in the shape of Peter Harper, a director of Hanson, Stephen Wallis, chairman of Alport Fisher, and Sir John Leahy, former ambassador to South Africa. Their dread tread proved the prelude to Bock's proposals to introduce a retirement age (Rowland excluded) of 65: witness confirmation yesterday that chairman René Leclézio, deputy chairman Robert Dunlop and Paul Spicer along with co-director Sir Peter Youens will all bow out this year. Compensation terms — reputed to involve two

years' salary — are still to be revealed.

Lonrho's financial strategy has long focused on debt reduction: 1992-93 results encompassing profits of £87 million from disposals, including VAG (UK) and Krupp Lonrho, which served to raise pre-tax profits from £14 million to £172 million. In the event, net borrowings have fallen to £446 million, with gearing down from 57 per cent to 31 per cent.

Lonrho's presentation to City analysts — something of a break with tradition — was well received, the share price reaching a two-year high with an 8p rise to 153p. This, presumably, will be of particular comfort to Bock, who, having acquired some 143.4 million shares, at a cost of around £135 million, is sitting on a paper profit of upwards of £80 million. A tidy return, even after taking account of carrying costs in respect of Bock's £300 million loan from the Frankfurt-based BfG Bank which, by way of collateral, holds charge over his 18.8 per cent stake.

The message from Rowland and Bock is that theatrical power plays have given way to a new

found understanding and the former "indivisibles" are again "as one". Rowland reiterates that he will remain on the board "indefinitely", his principal pre-occupation being with Lonrho's African affairs. Bock admits to considering possible acquisitions to strengthen "core interests" but, equally, has no intention of permitting gearing to revert out of control. What is crucial is Bock's end-game. Will the German property developer manage Lonrho or encourage a consortium takeover/breakup? It is hardly the salary that draws Rowland to Cheapside; rather the desire to be there at the kill.

Don't put trust in a pay freeze

FREEZING public sector pay bills has always looked the weakest element in the Government's latest medium-term public spending projections. It is, therefore, the weakest link in the Treasury's less public strategy to cut tax rates — and if possible direct tax bills — before the next general election, a strategy that



must now have a higher priority than ever. There is nothing particularly worrying about a short-term freeze at the end of recession. On the whole, recession raises the non-pay value of a government job, particularly in terms of security, and many private sector workers have had their pay frozen or worse.

The longer it goes on, however, the less credible it becomes. Over the years, pay in the public sector tends to keep pace with that in the private. Even if there were no pay bargaining or pay review boards, there is every reason why it should. Otherwise, the quality of public sector employees would steadily fall.

Unless productivity rises as fast in, say, the civil service as in

private business, pay must become an increasing burden on taxpayers. It has always been thus. The experience of the privatised water industry, for instance, suggests there is plenty of scope for productivity gains in the non-trading public sector without cutting service. But there is intrinsically less scope than in the market sector. Costs of providing a given service can be cut, mainly by job cuts, but productivity cannot be raised by increasing sales, the engine of rising living standards. To keep pace, civil service pay must rise faster than productivity.

The Chancellor's plans project that public spending will fall from 45 per cent of national income to 42.5 per cent in 1996-97. If those plans depend on a continuing cash freeze in Government running costs, which are dominated by pay, they can carry little weight. Indeed, the longer the freeze lasts, the greater the rise in public spending when the dam bursts, as in 1974-75 or 1979-80. Since then, pay bargainers have been provided with a measure designed to show how much extra pay is

needed merely to maintain living standards. Public sector pay bargainers are as capable as any of following the tax and price index, which will reflect both the likely average 2.5 to 3 per cent annual rise in consumer prices and higher direct taxes.

There are other ways the Government might meet its target. Higher real growth in private incomes or lower unemployment than projected should do the trick. But don't depend on a five-year freeze in pay bills.

Trade revival not yet in the bag

WORLD trade traditionally grows much faster than output. A rise of only 3 per cent in the volume of world trade last year is, therefore, disappointing even in the context of 2 per cent output growth. If the trade engine of growth really is weakening, then the negotiators of Gatt can claim with some conviction that the world trade agreement finally patched up after seven years by the European Union and America was even more important

than it appeared, since there was an urgent need to revive the momentum of trade growth.

To do that, it might need to reverse the increasing trend to move capital rather than goods. The story of the past decade and more has been of multinationals setting up their stalls round the world to service local markets. Rising protectionist pressure, mainly administrative, was making it ever more risky to base long-term strategies on ever-rising exports, especially of manufactures and semi-manufactures. From an economic point of view, however, trade in goods is much more flexible and achieves faster changes just the sort of thing entrenched interests resent most.

If the Gatt deal is to revive trade momentum, when the main developed economies are growing only slowly, it will need to prise open relations between the trade blocs and developing countries, including those in Eastern Europe. The EC-US deal had little to say about that. As India's Ballarishan Zutshi noted yesterday, most of the work still has to be done. Now that the political pressure of the deadline on world leaders has gone, it will require a genuine enthusiasm for trade growth for the big players to offer access deals to poorer countries that will really make a difference.

Resurgent Lonrho sees shares at two-year high

By COLIN CAMPBELL

Lonrho shares rose to their highest level in two years up 8p at 153p, as the international conglomerate, of which Tiny Rowland and Dieter Bock are the joint chief executives, announced higher 1993 profits and a sharp reduction in debt.

The group confirmed boardroom changes that include the retirement "in the near future" of René Leclézio, the chairman, of Robert Dunlop and Paul Spicer, the two deputy chairmen. "Sometime this

year", and of Sir Peter Youens at the annual meeting on March 28.

Mr Rowland will stay with Lonrho for at least another two or three years. He said he had "finally achieved a very good working relationship with Mr Bock", owner of 18.8 per cent of Lonrho's equity.

"There are (now) no differences between us," Mr Rowland added. "We could not expect 100 per cent agreement on everything, but I could not

be happier." Lonrho's "headline" pre-tax profit for the year to September 30 was £172 million compared with £114 million, restated, last time. Pre-tax profit before exceptional items was £76 million (£59 million). Cash at the year end totalled £193 million (£253 million).

A final dividend of 2p makes an unchanged 4p for the year. Net borrowings at the year end stood at £446 million, down from £549 million.

equivalent to gearing of 31 per cent, compared with 57 per cent previously. Lonrho would be more comfortable with gearing between 25 and 30 per cent, Mr Bock said, but it was difficult to predict what further asset sales might be made this year.

The company realised £87 million pre-tax (£48 million) from disposals, which included its VAG (UK) motor interests, Krupp Lonrho in Germany, and The Observer.

Lonrho's net asset value fell from 158p to 138p a share. There was a £186 million reduction in shareholders' funds after revaluation of the Metropole hotel properties (in which the Libyans have an interest) that are now valued in the books at £253 million.

Mr Rowland said a new strategy was being considered for all Lonrho's hotel interests, and talks had been held with the Libyans about swapping their Metropole interest for other Lonrho interests in Africa, possibly in agriculture.

The imminent London stock exchange flotation of Ashanti Goldfields, as the Ghanaian Government offers 25 per cent of its majority holding for international sale, should highlight Lonrho's "unrecognised inner wealth", Mr Leclézio said. Lonrho's 45 per cent stake in Ashanti, which produced 770,000 ounces of gold last year and is expanding to produce 1 million ounces annually, is valued in Lonrho's books at £80 million.

Mr Rowland said 1993 results were up to his expectations, and this year's would be better. "I am very optimistic at the moment, but then I am always optimistic," he said.

Mr Bock said he had not started to think about who would be Lonrho's new chairman, though he would like to find a non-executive.



Tiny Rowland, left, said he had a "good working relationship" with Dieter Bock, right

Caledonian offer for Bank of Edinburgh

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CALEDONIAN Trust, the Edinburgh-based property investment company, is to make a £4 million offer for Bank of Edinburgh, which lost its banking licence last week.

The bank is effectively a cash shell. It was set up three years ago, backed by £26.25 million of institutional money, of which £7.88 million had been partly paid.

Caledonian will make a paper offer, with a cash alternative. If the bid is successful, it will use the bank cash to invest in property. The take-

over costs and other expenses have reduced the bank's cash assets to about £4 million.

A formal offer document is likely to be issued by the middle of next month, and the offer will stay open for about three weeks. The bid will value the company at its net asset value.

Russell Frith, the bank's finance director, said: "We are happy to put the bid to our shareholders. However, the bank is believed unwilling to recommend it as this would involve costly due diligence."

Walt Disney surges to record earnings

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

WALT Disney, the US entertainment group insulated from the huge losses at its French theme park for a further two months, has unveiled a record 34 per cent rise in first quarter net earnings to \$368 million and a 20 per cent dividend increase to an annual \$30 per share.

Walt Disney says the \$350 million it took as a reserve against its 49 per cent in Euro Disney and against the royalties due, gives it no exposure to the project until March 31 — the deadline for restructuring.

ing of Euro Disney's debts. Last year disastrous results from Euro Disney helped push the parent company into its first quarterly loss for a decade. Net profits for the year to September 30 fell 63 per cent to \$299.7 million.

The star for the three months ended December 31 were the animated film characters of Aladdin and The Jungle Book which helped push film and video operating profits up 45 per cent. Overall, Walt Disney's turnover rose 14 per cent to \$2.7 billion.

John Waddington faces US enquiry

By OUR CITY STAFF

JOHN Waddington, printer, packager and maker of games, yesterday announced that it was under investigation by the United States Department of Justice for alleged anti-trust violations in the US plastics industry.

But the formal statement to the Stock Exchange read like something out of Cluedo — the game in which players have to determine who did what to whom, with which implement, and in which room. The one certain truth from the unlikely-for-some 13-line announce-

ment is Waddington's share price, was stabbed in the back, and on the prices screen left a trail of red as it staggered down 21½p to 258½p.

"Several companies and people have been involved, including two of Waddington's US subsidiaries (Connet Products and Connet California Cutlery) and certain of their employees," the statement said.

Martin Buckley, Waddington's chief executive, said the group employs 900 people in America, to which it first moved in 1985 when it bought Connet. America now accounts for 25 per cent of group

turnover. Waddington has been advised by its lawyers that on the facts as known it has significant defences should any proceedings be instigated.

No formal charges have been made and until such charges (if any) are made Waddington is not in a position to know the extent of the allegations, the supporting evidence (if any) and the potential costs," the company said.

The only clue Waddington was giving out was that it "will ensure the market is kept apprised of any significant developments" which will enable it to assess the extent of the allegations.

Shandwick back in the black

SHARES in Shandwick were at a year-long high of 35.5p yesterday, up more than 2p overnight, as the public relations consultancy revealed a return to profit.

(Martin Flanagan writes.)

The group made pre-tax profits of £4.8 million in the year to October 31, against a £2.5 million restated loss last time. There is still no dividend. Peter Gummer, the chairman, said the turnaround had been achieved despite difficult trading, particularly in mainland Europe, and was partly due to cost control. Staff have been cut by 400 — almost a fifth — in the past two years.

The group has negotiated more favourable medium-term banking facilities totalling £71 million. Analysts forecast profits of about £6 million this year.

Photo-Me to take over French film processor

By SARAH BAGNALL

PHOTO-ME International, the photobooth maker, is acquiring a large shareholder in a £38 million takeover to form a £220 million group.

Photo-Me is merging its operations with KIS, a French film processor and photobooth maker comprising Société de Participation KIS and Société KIS Investissements. The deal gives Photo-Me access to prototype digital electronic imaging technology developed by KIS, which could cut costs while producing sharper and more permanent pictures.

The UK company, which delayed its interim results to coincide with yesterday's announcement, revealed static pre-tax profits of £1.5 million on unchanged turnover of £72 million for the six months to 31 October. The interim dividend was lifted from 1.4p to 1.5p.

The deal ends weeks of spec-

ulation that Photo-Me was in talks to take over the photoprocessing operations of London International Group, the health and personal products group. David Miller, Photo-Me group managing director, said: "We have not spoken to LIG at all." Photo-Me's shares rose 5p to 310p while LIG's fell 6p to 164p.

Photo-Me said the acquisition of the new prototype photobooth was important to protect Photo-Me's position as leading worldwide photobooth operator. Photo-Me's technology has hardly changed in its 30-year history and the new prototype offers big cost reductions as well as higher quality pictures.

The £38 million price is being financed via the issue of new ordinary and convertible redeemable shares, which will lift Photo-Me's capital base

20.6 per cent. The £34 million of convertible shares are being issued to Serge Crasnianski, KIS chairman, who has 85.2 per cent of the Grenoble company's equity. However, KIS has various contingent liabilities and so Photo-Me has a three-year option to redeem the 11 million convertible shares for £30.7 a share if liability is established.

M Crasnianski, who has been a non-executive director since KIS acquired 12.5 per cent of Photo-Me, will become an executive director of the enlarged group. KIS, which has 300 employees, is expected to announce a £300 million (£33.8 million) turnover for the year to December 30, against £391.7 million last time. In 1992 KIS made a pre-tax profit of £5.1 million.

Tempus, page 29

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Holding the line on wage bills in the public sector

Imminent reports by pay review bodies are likely to recommend increases ministers may find difficult to meet.

Philip Bassett writes

Michael Portillo, the tough Chief Secretary to the Treasury, will spell out to business leaders today the Government's strategy for promoting economic recovery. A central part of his message to the Confederation of British Industry's council will be the need to cut Government spending — and a key part of that is its clamp on public sector pay.

Talking to the CBI about public sector pay could hardly be more appropriate. Howard Davies, its Director-General, is widely credited with inventing last year's 1.5 per cent pay limit for all 5.5 million public sector employees and the complete freeze on pay bills to follow it this year, which Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, deftly extended in his Budget to 1996-97.

But just as what was seen as Mr Clarke's spectacular success with his first Budget is now ambushing the Government as Labour presses home its attacks on tax, so too could public sector pay cause the beleaguered Government further difficulties as the first wage rises fall due.

John Major, the Prime Minister, has now received the first of the raft of reports of the six review bodies that set the pay for about 1.5 million public sector workers, including doctors, nurses and teachers. In spite of the freeze being announced in Mr Clarke's own evidence to them, it is likely that when their reports are published next month, they will recommend rises ministers may find it difficult to meet.

Review body members are angry at recent treatment of their recommendations, and some are not much inclined to take account of the Government's policy, regarding their job as making pay awards, and leaving the Government to fret about the bill.

Such thinking tends to attract enemies. The CBI wants their standing reviewed, and Ann Robinson, policy head at the Institute of Directors, called yesterday for the review bodies to be scrapped and all public sector national pay bargaining abandoned.

The political sensitivity of the review bodies is always high. Were political correspondents not even more highly charged than usual because of the Government's difficulties, the direct involvement of Downing Street in setting pay for millions of employees at a time when the Government wants to see further pay restraint and MPs have awarded themselves rises at more than twice the inflation rate is enough at this time of the year to set wage negotiators' blood racing.

With pay accounting for about 70 per cent of all public sector costs, pay in the public sector is always politically sensitive: it has brought down governments before now. But this year, even more is riding on it than usual. For Mr Clarke's Budget arithmetic to come off, the Government's ambitious targets on cutting spending have to be met. And for that to happen, pay bills have to be held in line with the freeze for the next three years on Government departments' £20-billion running costs.

The link between the tax row and pay was explicitly made yesterday. David Willetts, an influential Conservative backbencher, put it starkly. "If you give ground on the public sector pay bill freeze, then there are going to have to be even bigger tax increases. That's why it's important to hold the line." But



the background against which the Government will try to hold the line is not easy. Average earnings are still rising at 3 per cent — pushed down not by private sector manufacturing, but by lower level service sector increases, reflecting the public sector pay ceiling.

The CBI and independent pay analysts suggest private sector deals are now running at about 2 per cent, although pay freezes are tailing off. Recent deals include 3 per cent for 2,400 Sony workers, up to 3.25 per cent merit-based rises for 10,800 Sun Alliance employees, 2.5 per cent for 31,000 Ford workers as part of an inflation-linked two-year deal, and 3 per cent as the first stage of a similar deal for the 3,800 former public sector workers in Scottish Power.

Boardroom pay is still roaring ahead, with the latest survey of executive pay rises this week showing senior

management's latest pay restraints. Such factors have supported careful Treasury calculations that such threats were mostly unrealistic bluster. Treasury officials acknowledge privately that the sheer length of the public sector pay bill freeze increases the difficulty of bringing it off, but the all but total abandonment on the quiet by the TUC of proposals pushed by some left-wing union leaders for a pay strike across the public sector on April 11 will give them comfort.

Downing Street was being careful yesterday to brief lobby journalists that it foresaw, no looming confrontation over the pay review bodies' recommendations, emphasising that efficiency improvements may well allow the rises to be kept within pay bill limits.

Stephen Dorrell, Financial Secretary, says that efficiency savings, and therefore pay rises, should be possible

'Some review members see their job as making awards, leaving Government to fret about the bill'

managers' increases are double those for employees generally, let alone those in the public sector. Perhaps crucially for a Government whose public standing is so low, the electors do not like it either: polling by MORI shows that 56 per cent believe the Chancellor should not have frozen public sector pay. Even among Conservative voters, 38 per cent do not support the move.

To set against all that, unemployment remains high and is still a significant claim on pay. According to the British Chambers of Commerce, pay settlement levels are a much lower factor on companies' future prospects than, say, raw material prices or interest rates. The CBI says that the fall in overall unit costs is the sharpest in the 35 years it has been measuring them.

Although union leaders gave a warning of confrontation when the Govern-

ment signalled its latest pay restraints, such factors have supported careful Treasury calculations that such threats were mostly unrealistic bluster.

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pay bills those estimated at the start of each year, rather than the usually rather smaller outturns at the end. What is available to be included as efficiency savings is also as yet unknown: will it, for instance, include money claimed to be accruing from market-testing various civil service functions out to the private sector? Public sector pay bargaining is now heavily concentrated around April settlement dates, so the hard talking has not yet really begun. Some union leaders, such as John Edmonds, of the GMB, want to use the bridgehead they hope will be established by the review bodies, to set a public sector "going rate" that less powerful groups can follow.

Calling yesterday for the review bodies' recommendations to be met in full by the Government, John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, said a recommended wage rise from the review bodies would strengthen the case of all public sector workers for a pay increase this year. Trying to limit pay in the public sector alone, and for an unprecedented length of time — most personnel managers believe that recent history shows about three years is the maximum for any pay policy — is a dangerous strategy for the Government, particularly one that appears unable to shake itself free from problems crowding in on it from all sides.

But in spite of waves of worry emanating from the Westminster hothouse, Treasury gauging that public sector pay will steer clear of confrontation this year as last will probably turn out to be right. Tax, spending and the economy are all still large scale difficulties for the Government, and Mr Portillo's characteristically tough talking to the CBI today will make clear the intent of at least some ministers to see it through. But pay probably does not need to be added to the Government's agenda of anguish: the signs still are that in spite of the headlines, pay and especially public sector pay will not be a pressing problem this year.

TEMPUS

Fisons takes a deep breath

FISONS is taking the first, painful steps to rebuilding its shattered credibility. Its claim that it can strip costs of £35 million out of the pharmaceutical division's cost base in the next three years is scant comfort after its admission last month that a host of one-off costs and losses would wipe out profit in 1993. Still, it is a positive step, particularly since the group will carry the £15 million cost of the reorganisation in its operating costs rather than lump it into yet another provision.

Fisons decision to attack its costs is timely, given the increasing attention to the price of healthcare in Britain and Europe. Respiratory medicine is one of the most competitive areas of the pharmaceutical industry, and any drug manufacturer that can deliver cost savings to its customers will gain an edge over its rivals. The fact that Fisons can shed so

many jobs and make such savings relatively quickly suggests that it and other pharmaceutical companies have been carrying more fat than mundane manufacturers that are exposed to the full force of a free market.

While Fisons' actions are laudable, it is difficult to avoid the feeling that it is rearranging deckchairs on the *Titanic*. The key problem is not cost but the absence of any drug to replace Tilade when it comes off-patent. There is no place in the world for a medium-sized drug company without a drug. Thankfully, R&D has escaped the full force of the cuts.

Fisons' shares have risen 37 per cent from last month's low as takeover speculation grows. But there is no sign of a predator, and no reason for an acquirer to hurry. Anyone expecting a bid may find themselves waiting longer than anticipated.

Alpha Airports

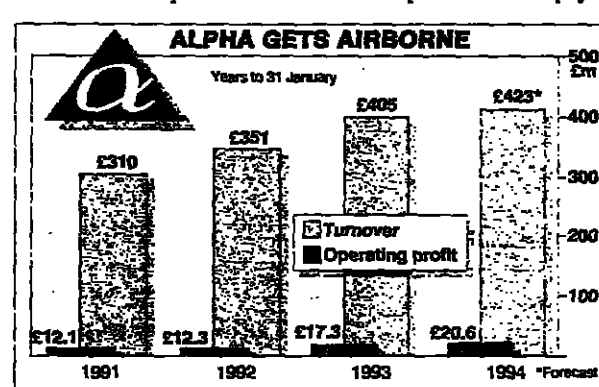
THE flotation of Alpha Airports provided a belated justification for Forte's refusal to sell Gardner Merchant and Alpha to Compass in 1992. At the time, Rocco Forte seemed unwise to turn down a combined offer of £525 million for the two when his group badly needed cash.

But Alpha's £211 million value on flotation is £90 million higher than Compass's offer. This, with the £30 million debt that Alpha is taking over, means that Forte has grossed an extra £125 million by taking this route, and the sale takes Forte half-way to its target of raising £500 million cash by 1995.

Admittedly, it is not easy to value Alpha. The airline catering side of the business has similar dynamics to BAA, which trades on 22 times current year earnings due to

the continuing growth in air travel. But the retailing operation is more akin to Alders, whose current year price earnings ratio is only 14, because it cannot shake off investors' concerns about the imminent abolition of duty-free allowances within the EU. The compromise is a flotation multiple of 16, which does not look expensive considering that three-quarters of operating profits come from aircraft catering.

Alpha is more of a transport than leisure stock and its fortunes will be linked to the growth in the air travel market. The shares are not overpriced for anyone who wants an exposure to this industry, even though it was a price that Compass would not pay.



IBM

IT IS gratifying to see IBM producing its first quarterly profit in 18 months, but one could hardly expect anything less, considering it has set aside \$20.5 billion in restructuring charges in the last two years.

The result does provide some comfort that the Big Blue is adapting itself to the modern world. Revenues are still falling, but at last costs are declining faster. The most impressive product of the new cost-conscious regime is that hardware margins improved, in spite of a 5 per cent fall in revenue.

The strength of IBM's PC sales proves that it can compete with Asian competition, which has sent prices spiralling downwards. The group may never be the lowest cost producer in the market, but its prices have now fallen more closely into line with the value of its brand and its service.

The return to profit has probably removed the need for a more radical approach to IBM's problems, such as some form of demerger, but the group is still a long way from rude health. The group

will do well to break even in the traditionally quiet first quarter, while the drop in revenues in both Europe and Asia is likely to continue and will delay recovery. At least the group's cash generation is strengthening, and while much of it is currently needed to pay the restructuring costs, the prospects are improving for an early recovery in the dividend, perhaps in 1995.

KIS's manufacturing skills should complement Photo-Me's marketing skills and help it extend its network of 12,000 sites.

Any acquisition of a private company carries risks, particularly when based on the indeterminate value of an untested technology. But Photo-Me has written a safety-net into the acquisition. The £34 million convertible redeemable issue is a neat device to guard against any hidden liabilities since the shares can be clawed back from the vendors to cover extra costs. Since the net issue of ordinary shares is only 1.2 million, once KIS's holding in Photo-Me is cancelled, it means that Photo-Me's total cost if the acquisition proves a disaster could be just £4 million.

The risk is worth taking in any case since something needs to kick-start the pedestrian performance that Photo-Me displayed in its half-year figures, in which sales and profits were static and earnings per share fell. Photo-Me's shares were trading on almost 20 times current year earnings before the acquisition. KIS needs to deliver on its potential to justify such a rating.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Better utilisation of directors' time

From Mr Stanley J. Lerner
Sir, In view of the fact that company directors need no longer spend so much of their expensive and valuable time in completing details of their other directorships etc. on the companies' annual return, can we all look forward to their companies benefiting from the more profitable use of the time saved?

This information has often proved more useful to potential creditors as regards credit limits, than the financial information filed at Companies House, and accordingly this decision should be regarded as a retrograde step, made more for politician publicity than commercial reasons. Yours faithfully, STANLEY J. LERNER, Chartered Accountant, 37 Howe Park Way, Hove.

Deregulation danger

From Mr R.H. Hayward
Sir, Under the Government's deregulation initiative, "companies will no longer have to register at Companies House details of their directors' other directorships". Researching the history of a director who has left a trail of liquidations in his wake will thus be prevented.

Private investors and trade creditors beware: this will help directors who are incompetent, if not fraudulent. Yours faithfully, R.H. HAYWARD, 13 Stumperlowe Hall Road, Sheffield.

Letters to the Business section of The Times can be faxed to 071-782 5112.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

End of a dynasty at WH Smith

A GRAND exit for Sir Simon Hornby, chairman of WH Smith Group, who performs his last official function today — unveiling the group's interim results — before his retirement after nearly 11 years at the helm. His departure marks the passing of the Hornby dynasty after 101 years: his grandfather was one of the original partners, and his father, Michael St John Hornby, who retired in 1965, was deputy chairman. Books and newspapers aside, Sir Simon has served as chairman of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts for the past five years, and is a former chairman of the Design Council — an interest which may have encouraged his occasional penchant for Mickey Mouse ties. His present deputy, Jeremy Hardie, starts on Monday. WH Smith began trading in London in 1872 under the banner "First With The News" — a boast it supported by speeding newspapers on to the trains bound for Scotland. Material would, of course, have included *The Times*, which started life as *The Daily*

Universal Register in January 1785, and changed its name three years later.

Peace maker

JAVIER Pérez de Cuéllar, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, has been made a director of Invest, a London company controlled by the Italian Bonomi family. And the link could test his powers of diplomacy like never before. One of the family's less popular investments at the moment is a controlling stake in Sarrio, a Spanish cartoon board maker, which has a few outstanding invoices with

the Kuwait Investment Office. Certain debts remain unpaid after the sale of Sarrio's Spanish paper business to KIO's now collapsed Grupo Torras subsidiary, and de Cuéllar will no doubt do his diplomatic best to remedy the situation. "We are honoured that Pérez de Cuéllar has been able to join us at Invest," says managing director Andrea Bonomi. "He has been a friend of our family for some time."

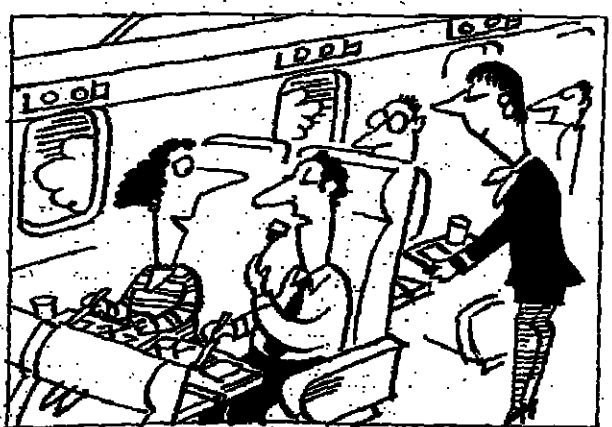
Nordic call

PEHR Gyllenhammar, ousted from a long stint at the helm of Volvo, Sweden's industrial

flagship, over his attempt to push the company's car and truck operations into a full-blown merger with Renault of France against shareholders' wishes, has not abandoned all his cross-border ambitions. It seems, in Volvo's home town, Gothenburg, Gyllenhammar is now campaigning for the city's new opera-cum-theatre house to be made home for the performing arts of the whole Nordic region, not just Sweden. One has to wonder how the shareholders will react.

Closed book

MILLS and Boon, publisher of weepy romantic fiction, has become embroiled in a tangled affair worthy of one of its own novels. Robert Williams, UK managing director for the past four years, has been shown the door after what the company describes as a "disagreement" with Harlequin Enterprises, its Canadian parent, over future policy. Williams, 50, was summoned from his Surrey home to Switzerland where Heinz Wermelinger, executive vice-president (overseas), was waiting. All very undignified for someone who worked for Unilever and British Gas before joining Mills and Boon as financial director



"Very nice — but I wouldn't pay £211 million for it"

THE TIMES RENTALS

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26 1994

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1993/94		Price ¢	Net wt	Yld div	P/E	1993/94		Price ¢	Net Yld div	P/E
High	Low					Company	High			
300	123	Forvar	228	3.8	1.7	59.7				
70	25	Sandvine Spelt	62	2.1	2.6	21.5				

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34	Patricia	78	1	9	12.1
35	Robert (John)	79	1	9	12.1
36	Patricia	130	4	4.2	4.4
154	Hickory Price	344	3	2	17.3
46	Arnette St	503	5	9	26.8
248	Patricia	423	12.0	5	9.6
370	Patricia	503	1	11.7	
22	WJ (M)	100		14	0.1
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781	547	Northumberland	715	3	...	40 184
931	547	North Water	567	1	...	45 92
633	476	Severn Throat	390	1	5	45 94
686	454	Stn. Water	627	1	...	42 97
1025	1222	Stn. Water	1550	...	485	59 112
611	464	Thames Water	541	47 204
615	464	Thames Water	708	1	...	46 272
799	575	Walsingham W	912	1	...	39 114
799	475	Walsingham W	528	1	3	46 91

Source: Finstar
 * USMC: Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex coupon
 § Price; † Ex rights issue; ‡ Ex alt. Ex dividend; † Ex coupon
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331

25	Automotive	212			6.9	7.7
36	Food	212			1.0	1.7
38	Lumber	217		13.2	2.0	2.7
45	Pharm.	225		13.2	2.0	2.7
50	Steele & Fisher	225		13.2	2.0	2.7
51	Syn.	225		13.2	2.0	2.7
53	St. Salter	244			5.1	2.1

TEXTILES						
408	Alford Text	556		12.7	26.12	9
415	Amesbury (A)	70	1		0.4	15.0
51	Babson Spn	214		1	8.5	4.9
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TOBACCOS				
270	607 BAY	521	- 6	68 15.6
275	2179 Brimstone	484	- 4	32 13.2
TRANSPORT				
288	349 Atlantic Star	586	0	1.9
290	347	418	- 2	40 25.3
291	146 Breydenfeste	127	- 1	42 14.8
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350	458	Atlantic Water	573	1	4	47 114
410	544	Midl. Klns. Hds	707	1	...	38 122
781	547	Northumberland	715	3	...	40 184
931	547	North Water	567	1	...	45 92
633	476	Severn Throat	390	1	5	45 94
686	454	Stn. Water	627	1	...	42 97
1025	1222	Stn. Water	1550	...	485	59 112
611	464	Thames Water	541	47 204
615	464	Thames Water	708	1	...	46 272
799	575	Walsingham W	912	1	...	39 114
799	475	Walsingham W	528	1	3	46 91

Source: Finstar
 * USMC: Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex coupon
 § Price; † Ex rights issue; ‡ Ex alt. Ex dividend; † Ex coupon
 § significant. † Figures of report available.

Service stations that sell groceries but not petrol may be the oil giants' next step in the war with supermarkets, reports Alan Mitchell

Fill the car with five-star food, please

Talk about pubs with no beer: in marketing anything can happen if a company thinks consumers will go for it. Now Texaco, the fourth largest petrol retailer in Britain, has revealed that it is planning a petrol station without petrol — a Texaco-branded convenience store selling tobacco, confectionery, newspapers and magazines, groceries and fast food — but no petrol.

The Texaco announcement is the latest of a sweep of changes transforming oil companies' marketing. And it may not be the last. Oil companies may rank among the biggest and most powerful organisations in the world, but they are still being humiliated by the British grocery trade. By selling petrol at up to 20p a gallon less than their branded rivals, companies such as Sainsbury and Tesco are rapidly grabbing market share: an estimated 18 per cent so far, and rising fast.

They can do it because their cost structures are so different. They are not on prime city and roadside sites, so their land and development costs are much lower. They pay lower wages than oil companies. With only a handful of large sites selling vast volumes of

petrol, their distribution costs are much lower. And the sheer volume they shift means they can further shave margins.

Malcolm Lomas, a former Gulf Oil executive turned consultant, estimates that one superstore petrol station selling 10 million litres of petrol a year swallows the entire sales of seven traditional sites in the surrounding area. Or more frighteningly, it sucks 10 per cent of sales (and therefore virtually all the profits) from 70 traditional sites in its vicinity.

The oil companies have been responding in a number of ways: by ever more ambitious loyalty schemes and promotional offers (the latest being "win a Rover car" from BP), by massive investment in upgrading their petrol stations, and by product development — especially the introduction of additives. But, says Peter Regnier, managing director of Oil Prices Assessments Ltd, they are still "absolutely desperate".

One result: the Texaco twist. Oil companies are discovering that their networks of petrol stations, far from being a burdensome cost which must be paid to ensure distribution of their product, are potentially one of their biggest and least utilised assets. "The grocers



Filling up at Tesco: by selling fuel at up to 20p a gallon cheaper, supermarkets have grabbed an estimated 18 per cent of the market

have wiped out the corner shop. That leaves a niche for us," says Gerry Abram, BP's oil marketing development manager.

While superstore sales growth slows, "top-up" shopping through outlets like petrol station forecourts is booming. It will expand by a third to £18 billion in the next five years, as more women go out to work, and snacking overtakes formal meals, say industry experts.

Forecourt sales, powered by this move into grocery retailing, are rising by more than 20 per cent a year. Non-petrol retailing now often accounts for 50 per cent of petrol stations' gross profits. Prime sites, open 24 hours a day, in high traffic areas, accessible by car: this is a retailing asset that most grocery firms would die for.

Hence the logical conclusion. A recent television and leafletting

campaign by Esso, one of the top five petrol retailers, focused entirely on its forecourt offer. It never mentioned petrol. Commenting on his company's move, John Darnley, Esso sales and marketing general manager, says: "We have learnt skills as a pure retailer. Now we are planning a free-standing Star Market, with no gas."

Mr Darnley stresses that gasless gas stations will only appear at a

few, carefully selected sites: probably, old small stations with relatively low car traffic but high pedestrian flow. They will probably be developed as joint ventures with partners such as McDonald's, who would place a fast food outlet on the same site.

But that may be just the first twist in the oil giant versus supermarket saga. As Edward Osterwald, an oil industry expert with Coopers &

Lybrand consultants, points out, the petrol retailers do have one ace in this increasingly expensive card game. They have 18,500 outlets compared to the supermarkets' 500. The relative numbers may change, but the balance will not. The logical outcome? Make love not war.

"An unwelcome alliance between oil companies and supermarket chains may yet emerge," he suggests. As petrol companies' margins collapse, they could seek a share of supermarkets' margins by offering joint supply ventures, sharing site development and distribution costs. Some grocers are already wondering whether they really want to become petrol retailers, says BP's Mr Abram. "They may want to talk to some people who are good at it."

Next step? To take the joint venture approach a step further. As grocery chains start drawing back from their headlong superstore expansion, seeking future sales growth in the town centres they have helped to empty, one or two may find the petrol stations' network of prime sites an attractive prospect. If McDonald's can open a store on a petrol station site, why cannot, say, Asda? If McDonald's can find brand synergy with Tesco, why not Shell with Tesco?

It is one of those ideas that nobody in the industry dares mention in public. But it is logical, say insiders. It would mean sharing ballooning costs. And while petrol companies would gain expertise in retailing and retail branding, grocers would find the sales expansion through the new type of outlet they need.

It would also mean the supermarket chains opting for partnerships rather than their current go-it-alone approach. Impossible? Perhaps. But once we have seen a gasless gas station anything is possible.

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A new paper, not a snooze-paper

Over the past two weeks, a splash of colour has brightened up the grey winter-morning rush on the Paris Metro. In nearly every carriage someone seems to be reading *InfoMatin*, a new daily which breaks tradition not only by publishing in colour and selling at half the usual price, but also by presenting the news in a compact, graphic way and at two-thirds the page size of a British tabloid.

Nothing could be further from the wind-swept approach of the three quality morning papers, *Le Figaro*, *Libération* and *Le Quotidien*, nor from the breezy voice of the two "pops", *Le Parisien* and *France-Soir*. *InfoMatin* presents its news seriously, but briefly, in easily digestible gobblets aimed at the educated video generation. Its founders say the target is the nine out of ten citizens who never open a newspaper.

Its other innovation is a focus on practical advice. As well as the usual entertainment listings and comic strip, yesterday's number offered help with credit cards, late student grants and a guide for women on how to adopt "une silhouette de dandy". The most obvious ancestor is *USA Today*, the colour broadsheet which pioneered the "reader-friendly" touch in the Eighties and still draws critics' fire for a fast-food treatment of the news.

Given that the French press is suffering, like many neighbours, from a dwindling and ageing readership, many in the business thought it a wild gamble to launch a new title in the depths of recession. Since the launch of *Libération*, the bible of the left-leaning young, in 1973, Paris has seen seven other new dailies bite the dust. The most recent case, *Le Jour*, lasted for 112 numbers last year.

However, there are signs that *InfoMatin* is hitting its target of the educated urban young with a formula which could spark imitation. Though it is early days, sales are holding up at some 160,000, well above the 100,000 initial target, and in the vital Paris

Nine out of ten French citizens never open a paper. But a colourful, new tabloid is hoping to change all that, writes Charles Bremner

region, the title is selling 3,000 more than *Libération*, according to Alain Carlier, the director. (The circulation of French national papers is far lower than the British, with the mass-market *Le Parisien* topping the field at a little over 400,000.)

"You could say we are happy publishers," says M. Carlier, who is one of the four founders. The group, all from the commercial side of the industry, were convinced there was scope for a new style of paper and set about proving it with two years of studies. "When it comes to launching a newspaper, being in a rush is the enemy of life expectancy," M. Carlier says. "We thought for a very long time." The founders raised funds from a variety of sources, including *Le Monde*, the austere evening organ of the ruling and thinking classes.

The team of 50 journalists, headed by Marc Jézaguel, the editor, operates out of *Le Monde's* new suburban production site at Ivry-sur-Seine. *InfoMatin's* small 9x12½ inch format is half *Le Monde's* own. The founders retain 66 per cent of the shares, with the rest held mainly by small investors and the Macif mutual insurance company. Negotiations with Conrad Black's Hollinger group did not work out, says M. Carlier, who is fiercely attached to the newspaper's independence. "I say the longer someone can read us without being able to pin down a political line the better."

After 12 issues — the paper prints only on

weekdays — M. Carlier says the biggest surprise has been the performance "in smaller provincial cities and among older readers. With printing only in Paris, distribution is a problem, requiring air delivery from the capital."

He insists that *InfoMatin's* gains have not been at the expense of established titles. "We aimed at readers who were turned off because the Paris press takes too long to read, because it costs too much, because it is sometimes rather gloomy and because it offers no practical advice." *InfoMatin* is not a substitute for traditional newspapers, he says. "If you want a longer read you can turn to the others."

InfoMatin's fate will be decided in the next few months after the novelty has worn off. The recession could play to the paper's advantage, say some analysts, because the newspaper is not banking on much advertising — it carries adverts on three of its 24 pages now — and because its price, at three francs (34p) is half the six francs charged by its serious rivals. *Le Parisien* has already joined the price fray, launching a slimmed-down national edition and dropping its price, though it targets an older and less educated readership than *InfoMatin*.

Brevity is the dominant feature of the new paper, along with a fragmented layout and graphics: a formula designed for the habits of the zapper generation. "It just skates the surface and leaves you hungry," says a rival editor, who preferred not to be named. By the standards of the tabloids of some other countries, however, *InfoMatin* treats its news with Gallic seriousness. Its top headline yesterday, on the retirement of the Communist Party leader, read: "Is Marchais going to take Democratic Centralism away in his suitcase?"

Its only long article, a centre-page feature, was a look at the role of the press in the Dreyfus affair a hundred years ago. Hardly the stuff even of Britain's middle-market dailies.

Info

Sang contaminé: après les médecins, les Nobel font appel

Les petits porteurs sont invités à réserver les actions Elf sans en connaître le prix

ENQUETE: le match "Médecins du monde" contre "Médecins sans frontières" Pages 12-13

With its easy-to-read format, *InfoMatin* is aimed at the video generation

NEWSBITES

Thought for food

BRITAIN'S oldest daily national newspaper still in its original ownership is to celebrate its 200th anniversary next month. The title was the first national daily to set up in Fleet Street, and the first to leave. It was also the first paper to give a contract to the fledgling Reuters News Agency in 1858: it counted Charles Dickens among its contributors; and it pioneered the use of colour.

It is not as you might think, *The Times*, but *The Morning Advertiser*, the trade paper of the Society of Licensed Victuallers.

Male-order papers

CONVINCED that daily newspapers are still viewed with hostility by female readers, despite the newly-created "soft" news and features sections, IPC, Britain's leading consumer magazine publisher, is to research newspaper buying habits. It wants to prove to advertisers once and for all that newspapers are predominantly a male-driven purchase and that the primary status they enjoy in the National Readership Survey may be misleading. The survey will be based on 3,000 respondents and results are expected to be published by the end of this month.

Videos healthy

FEARS that the advent of movie channels on cable and satellite television would kill the pre-recorded video industry appear to have been exaggerated. Research shortly to be published by BBC Enterprises shows that videos achieved their biggest ever sales boost during Christmas week with a turnover of £5 million. Boosted by "the Disney factor" (four Walt Disney classics went on sale in 1993), sales for the whole of last year rose 25 per cent on 1992. Excluding the Disney figures, BBC Videos took nearly 16 per cent of the market.

Boost for Today

TODAY newspaper is estimated to have put on approximately 370,000 sales on Monday, taking its figure to 900,000, when it temporarily dropped its price from 25p to 10p. The same tactic is understood to have boosted sales of *The Sun* by 800,000 on January 10.

Stumbling block

DAVID MONTGOMERY expressed confidence this week that the Mirror Group's proposed consortium offer for *The Independent* newspaper would be unlikely to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission because there had been "no such referral since 1966".

Not true. According to the Department of Trade and Industry, the merger of *The Times* and the *Sunday Times* in 1966 was referred to the MMC, as was the purchase of the *Observer* by Lonrho in 1981 and the acquisition of the *Daily* and *Sunday Express* and the *Star* by United Newspapers in 1985. All three bids were cleared. Eventually.

ALEXANDRA FREAN

In the Taylforth case, the High Court jury seems to have exercised a rare degree of restraint and cool-headed logic

Wheel turns in libel casino

The tragic collapse of Gillian Taylforth at the end of one of the most salacious libel trials ever heard in the High Court illustrates the trauma that plaintiffs have to experience in the high-stakes world of defamation actions. It also demonstrates why juries have so often awarded six-figure sums to plaintiffs who have endured the public anguish and opprobrium of a High Court hearing and dared to take on Fleet Street's big battalions.

These punitive jury awards have left newspaper lawyers, particularly those from the tabloids, deeply resentful of juries and their ability to compensate sensibly a plaintiff for the hurt and suffering of the original libel.

The case against juries does not centre only on the huge amounts they award in damages. Traditionally, a jury has given the plaintiff the benefit of the doubt where there is a straight conflict of evidence and awarded a small amount in damages to save the plaintiff having to pick up what may be huge costs — more than half a million pounds in the Taylforth case — of both parties.

That all came to an end yesterday when *The Sun*, mass-circulation News International daily, won a resounding libel victory in the Taylforth libel action. This followed three other rare newspaper victories — the Sonia Sutcliffe and Lim cases (both against the *News of the World*, the sister paper to *The Sun*), the Michael Meacher case against *The Observer*, more recently the "keyhole" case involving Jani Allan and Channel Four and the William Roache case against *The Sun*, when damages were awarded but less than had been paid into court.

Although the Taylforth case may have restored newspaper lawyers' faith in juries, it has also demonstrated the anguish and cost of pursuing an action to trial. Plaintiffs — and I have myself been a plaintiff in a recent libel action — lose sleep worrying about how they will get the other side to see where the truth really lies.

Over the past two weeks, Taylforth has been through the fire of a High Court libel trial. From last Friday to yesterday morning, she will have experienced pure purga-



Michael Meacher, left, Jani Allan, William Roache and Gillian Taylforth came unstuck when they fought Fleet Street's big battalions



tory, the only redeeming feature being the decency and courtesy of the trial judge, Mr Justice Drake, the compassion of her lawyers and the knowledge that after her ordeal, life in the real world goes on: in short, that there are more important things in life than fame and an unsullied reputation.

If this libel action does anything, it should persuade some of those solicitors who bring libel actions, in the belief that newspaper lawyers inevitably cave in, to think again. It should also persuade them to all on a throw of the dice in the super-expensive world of Court 13 in the High Court. It will also, I hope, persuade the Government, in accordance with its manifesto commitments, to reform this area of

law. Britain has become the defamatory capital of the western world, hosting actions the rich and powerful. Those whose privacy least deserve protecting and who least deserve compensation when journalists indulge in prurient overkill in search of a good story will wheel out this new weapon against freedom of expression. As in Taylforth, there will be few winners, other than the lawyers.

Although libel solicitors may for a time be more circumspect in advising clients, it is only a matter of time before there is another huge jury award that sets a new benchmark in this quite exceptional legal arena. In the Taylforth case, the jury seems to have kept its feet firmly on the ground and exercised

a rare degree of restraint and cool-headed logic. In many cases, juries, particularly when they cannot reach a unanimous verdict, are suspected of writing down on a piece of paper what they think the plaintiff deserves. This is then divided by twelve and that is how the figure for damages is thought to be reached by a jury. Barrack-room justice of this kind makes an ass of the law.

It also does nothing for free speech and the only victims are the Gillian Taylforths of this world, who may wrongly believe that the libel world is a one-way ticket to riches and fame.

ALASTAIR BRETT
The author is a company solicitor for Times Newspapers.

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High risk of the high-rise deals

Some of the tenants who bought flats from Westminster City Council are unhappy with their buys. Rachel Kelly reports on the dreams gone sour

The talk in housing circles last week was of the victims of Westminster City Council's alleged homes-for-votes policy: the poor, homeless Labour-leaning families who were alleged to have been moved out of Westminster for richer would-be homeowners who were more likely to vote Tory.

Yet there are other victims, whose plight has attracted less publicity although their situation is as desperate: the people who bought flats in Westminster, supposedly fulfilling the dream of home ownership to take their place in a property-owning democracy. But now, trapped because building societies will not lend to prospective buyers on what they consider high-risk blocks still dominated by homeless families, they cannot sell.

Nicky Cosh is a 28-year-old bank clerk. In April, 1990, she bought a one-bedroom flat on the second floor of the Warwick and Brindley estate, a high-rise block tucked between the Harrow Road and the Westway in west London with a 30 per cent discount from her council, Westminster. She paid £42,700. It was all she could then afford.

Now she rues the day the Westminster Home Ownership Scheme leaflet dropped through her letter box. Her problems began when she decided she wanted to sell. Despite its proximity to desirable Maida Vale and Little Venice, no estate agents would put her flat on their books. They knew that potential buyers would be refused a mortgage because lenders saw the block as a bad risk.

Miss Cosh, one of an estimated 120,000 former council tenants throughout the country trapped in homes they cannot sell and facing bills they cannot pay, is a forgotten victim of Westminster City Council's alleged homes-for-votes policy.

She is every bit as much a loser as homeless families shipped out of the borough. If she could sell, she would be lucky to get back a

portion of her original investment. Meanwhile, she faces bills ranging from £1,400 to almost £3,000 for fire-precaution works. The bills — covering service charges, communal heating, and building insurance — have nearly doubled since she bought. They are now £390 per six months for a one-bed flat, and £550 per six months for a two-bedroom flat.

Had she known of the bills and her flat's unsaleability, she would never have bought. She was seduced by Westminster's "designated sales policy", under which three lower blocks were supposed to be completely owner-occupied.

"But when I bought my flat", she says, "it was nine months after they de-designated the block, and Westminster didn't tell me. All the literature said it was being sold under the home ownership scheme. If I had known the block was not designated, I never would have bought the flat."

Council officials have admitted that they were wrong not to inform the Warwick and Brindley leaseholders that the blocks had been de-designated. They have apologised.

Nigel Pollard, of Westminster's housing department, says: "Westminster has done much to help its leaseholders, including the introduction of an indemnity scheme to cover the cost of major works, a deferred-payment scheme for large bills, and a hardship scheme."

As for fire-precaution works, Mr Pollard says the council has given a public undertaking not to bill any leaseholders until the law forcing the council to do these works has been challenged vigorously. "We will avoid charges", he says, "if we can find a way of legally doing so."

That is not enough, say the leaseholders, who have now formed an action group. With the evidence of the district auditor's report to strengthen their case,



Nicky Cosh, a bank clerk, rues the day Westminster council's Home Ownership Scheme leaflet dropped through her letter box

Miss Cosh and others are demanding the council buy back their homes. The council is stalling. It hopes to agree a mortgage indemnity scheme with the Nationwide building society which can act as a safety net for leaseholders with resale problems, but negotiations broke down before Christmas.

Now the council has found a second lender and is negotiating, but the leaseholders hold out little hope for its success.

Lenders dislike lending on such flats. They blame in part the structural problems of high-rise blocks, which may make the property unsuitable as security for a

mortgage. They also blame the insurers. Normal lending practice is not to give loans of more than 75 per cent of a property's value without indemnity cover. But many insurers have pulled out of the market in the wake of the huge losses suffered over the past few years.

For those who originally bought,

blocks, also worry lenders. Former council tenants in Wandsworth, south London, report similar problems to those in Westminster.

Leaseholders' groups say that former tenants are being hit by high service charges and major works. Repossessed homes on the Duddingston estate in Battersea are now being sold at auction for as little as £5,000 for a studio flat.

But Wandsworth council last week launched a rescue plan for its flat-buyers. A £2 million fund will provide mortgages for would-be buyers of high-rise flats and an appeal system will hear leaseholders who consider service charges excessive. Indemnity cover will be offered to protect lenders in case of repossession. Westminster tenants are not so lucky.

The problem seems to be less

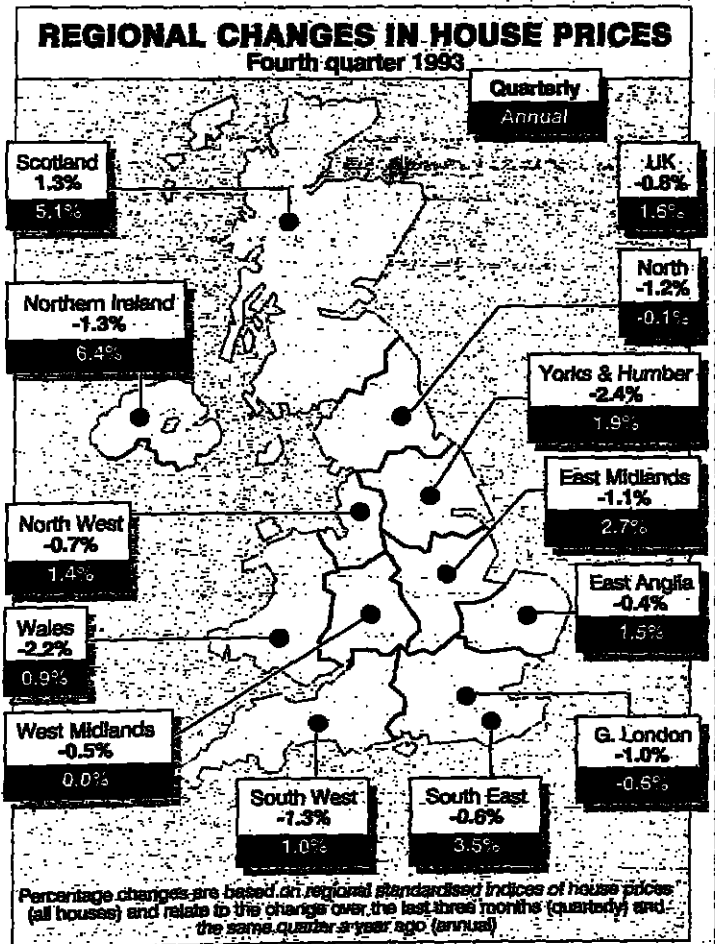
The authority is stalling on demands that it buy back the properties

with the right-to-buy policy in general than with the policy extended to flats. During the 1980s, the proportion of privately owned homes rose from 57 per cent to 68 per cent of the housing stock, giving thousands of families greater independence and mobility. Resale prices have been high on the small, rural, attractive estates.

In the mid 1980s, however, the Government decided to follow up the success of its house-sales policy with new incentives to the tenants of flats. Before 1986, fewer than 20,000 flats were sold in England, compared with 500,000 homes. But as the discount increased to a maximum 70 per cent, flat sales soared. There are now more than 120,000 council leaseholders out of 1.25 million right-to-buy purchasers in England and Wales.

Talks are continuing between the Council of Mortgage Lenders, the Department of the Environment and the local authorities about how to resolve the problem. The prospect of local elections in May will undoubtedly give the discussions added urgency.

A selection of modern houses built on early foundations has come on the market



Hopeful signs from the north

The greatest rises in house prices have been in Scotland and Northern Ireland

Two sets of figures this month show how house prices in Britain have changed region by region, writes Rachel Kelly. One set was released by the Halifax, the other by the Nationwide. Different sample sizes and different geographical strengths explain the differences in the figures — broadly speaking, the Nationwide is better represented in the south, the Halifax in the north. Analysts usually consider the Halifax's figures to be more reliable because of its larger sample size.

Both building societies, however, find that the greatest rises are in northern regions. House prices rose more in Northern Ireland over the past year than anywhere else in the UK, the Halifax figures show.

Prices in Ulster rose by 6.4 per cent with the next greatest rises in Scotland, where prices rose by 5.1 per cent, followed by the South East, up by 3.5 per cent.

The Nationwide found the greatest rises in Scotland, where it says prices rose by 11 per cent — compared to the Halifax's 5.1 per cent. The greatest house price falls were in London, where prices fell by 0.6 per cent, the Halifax says. A

rosier picture comes from the Nationwide, which saw rises of 5.3 per cent in London and 4.9 per cent in the South East.

The Halifax said that the regional figures for the last quarter of last year showed the erratic nature of the housing market. Yorkshire and Humberside, for example, were the most buoyant of all the northern regions in the third quarter. But in the fourth quarter of last year they showed the largest fall of all regions — down 2.4 per cent on the third quarter.

House prices in the West Midlands fell 0.5 per cent in the fourth quarter but remained static compared with a year ago. The average price of houses in the region is now £61,680. By comparison, house prices in the East Midlands, now £54,483 on average, fell 1.1 per cent in the fourth quarter, widening the gap in the average price between the two regions to nearly £7,200. Despite this trend, average prices are up 2.7 per cent on a year ago.

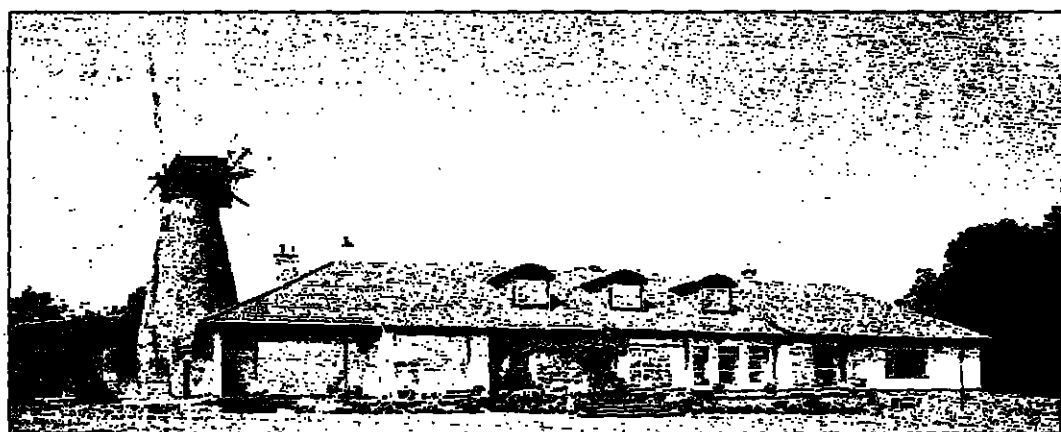
In East Anglia, prices showed a comparatively modest fall of 0.4 per cent in the latest quarter, but are only up 1.5 per cent on their level at the same time last year.

Lucky the builder of a new house can secure the site of an old one ready-cleared. Not only does the site be a good one, but there may be mature gardens or a long landscaped park. A crop of modern houses on old sites has come on the market. Agents expect them to appeal to those who want to enjoy the land and setting of an old house without having to pay huge maintenance costs.

Grove Mill, Colehill, near Amersham, is a house built in 1960 attached to a now restored and converted Grade II windmill dating from 1856. It comes with five bedrooms and just over 14 acres of gardens and paddocks. The property is with Knight Frank & Rutley (071-629 8171) at £850,000.

Park Hatch, near Hascombe, Surrey, was built in 1939 on the site of the 19th-century seat of the Godman family of brewers, which in turn had grown out of an 18th-century yeoman's farm. The present house is built in stone and displays a number of features salvaged from the old, including Georgian fanlight and eyebrow windows, balustrades and arches. Inside there is linenfold and other oak panelling and a good stone fireplace. There is a room version smoking tower in the gardens, as well as a small studio cottage.

The joy of the place, however, lies in the 14 or so acres of grounds, and the magnificent views to Leith Hill, Chertseybury Ring and the downs. The formal terraces and ornamental walls built by the Godmans in the 1850s are still there, covered in Virginia creeper and honeysuckle. There are cedars, oaks, beech and



Grove Mill near Amersham, built in 1960 and attached to a converted Grade II windmill

Grounded in history

many types of ornamental tree, as well as banks of rhododendrons, lavender beds, a lake and water-garden. It should be a happy place for children and animals, and Browns of Cranleigh (0483 267070) is suggesting about £500,000 for the property.

The great cedar on the rear lawn of Caveood at Dutchworth, near Welwyn in Hertfordshire, is said to stand at the mid point of a triangle formed by three church spires, and in its shade is peace or, as Edward Young, who was Rector of Welwyn, wrote in his bestselling *Night Thoughts*, "Tis as the general pulse of life stood still, and nature made a pause". The cedar is much older than the present house, and a little older even than its predecessor.

The modern tile-hung five-bedroom house was built to a high specification, according to Mullucks Wells, of Bishops Stortford (0279 755400), the agents, and sits well in an elevated position, with old formal gardens and lawns separated from paddocks and woodland. There are about 13 acres in all, and Mullucks, together with Bryan Bishop of Welwyn (043871 8877), seeks offers around £775,000.

Edward Young's stepdaughter married the great nephew of Sir William Temple (1628-1699), diplomat, patron of Swift and author of a number of essays, including one *Of Gardens*. His seat was Moor Park, Farnham.

Surrey, which was sold by his ultimate heirs in 1859. A development of part of the estate in more recent times has, according to a prospectus, concentrated on producing properties of at least two acres "of a superior and quite unique character combining the attractions of a delightful rural situation with the amenities of an urban district". The next addition is to be called The Manor, and is to be a Lutyns-inspired three-storey house with indoor swimming-pool complex, three reception rooms, a library and a billiards room. Although the 24-acre gardens are said to be mature, the Hawk Development Company intends to relandscape at least a part to provide a Japanese garden and a

tennis court. Jackson-Stops (071-499 6291), which quotes a guide price of up to £1.5 million, reports several enquiries before a brick has been laid.

Also in Surrey, at Capel, there is a new house called, perhaps coincidentally, Temple Mead. This was built in 1990-91 on a new site, but using old materials, including roof tiles from the East End of London and 200-year-old stock bricks with clay peg tile elevations in the traditional Surrey manner. Inside there is an inglenook made of Jacobean 2in bricks. The effect is unusually convincing, and time will no doubt make up for the lack of mature surroundings. The five-bedroom house is just under seven acres, including a sizeable pond and a tennis court, is with John D. Wood (071-493 4106) and Patrick Gardner of Dorking (0306 8777), at about £500,000.

A variation on a theme, which seems particularly popular north of the border, is to build a new house in the walled kitchen gardens of the old. This has many obvious advantages, not least privacy and security.

In April, work is due to start on such a house for the Earl of Haddo, whose ancestral seat, Haddo House, Aberdeen, is now owned by the National Trust for Scotland. It will be a fairly traditional building by Robert Steedman, an Edinburgh architect and landscaper, garden, fully in keeping with the site, with the 60ft south-facing elevation centring on an 18th orangery.

HUON MALLALIEU

Why sellers and buyers are getting closer

WHAT IS a reasonable discount on the asking price of a property? Fresh research suggests that the gap between asking price and achieved sale price has narrowed in the past year. Cluttons London Residential says the discount negotiated by buyers fell from 14.22 per cent in October 1992 to 3.98 per cent in September 1993. "The closing of the gap confirms the view that the residential market has firmly recovered," says the agency's Robin Paterson. Of course, it may just be that sellers are being more reasonable in their asking prices, Rachel Kelly writes.

Sara Graybow, residential sales director at the agency, agrees that the shrinking gap is due to the paucity of quality properties on the market. "It is a simple case of supply and demand," she says. "The situation is getting worse. These figures are based on 237 sales totalling £38 million up to September. The recovery is bringing buyers into the market but many vendors are still hanging onto their properties until the spring."

Anthony Lassman, of Lassmans, the agents, agrees: "Buyers no longer expect to embark on lengthy battles over price," he says. Mr Lassman adds that in a weak market, a 10 per cent margin should be allowed for negotiation.

The merging of asking and achieved prices may also reflect a steady nerve among surveyors doing valuations. During the worst of the slump, valuers were protecting

themselves by undervaluing property to convert themselves in a falling market.

Moving into the office

□ LONDON is facing such a shortage of sites to build new homes that developers are turning former office blocks into flats.

David Goldstone, managing director of Regalian Properties, says: "There is such a shortage of quality residential building land in central London that we have two options — either redevelopment of commercial properties or opportunities south of the river."

Regalian's latest scheme — Albion House, a 1960s 14-floor office block — combines the two. The 36 flats will be ready in spring next year and have views across the river to the Tate Gallery.

The message for home-buyers is that if you want to buy new, put your orders in early. John Hunter, of Northacre, the developers, estimates that only 15,000 new homes will be built in London over the next decade. Mr Hunter is behind a development of a terraced row of Victorian houses in Observatory Gardens, in Kensington, west London. He plans to retain the original Victorian facade, with a new structure behind to provide 62 flats with underground parking for 74 cars.

IN THE MARKET



Regalian's office-block conversion

He is not due to complete the project until this autumn.

Cresting the Castle walls

□ PLANS for one of the first residential tower blocks since the 1970s have aroused the wrath of South London residents. The

London Institute, a collection of colleges including the London College of Printing, hopes to build a £57 million 22-storey tower block to house students at Elephant & Castle. The scheme would include a leisure centre and six-storey teaching block for students and staff.

The site is occupied by the Elephant & Castle leisure centre and its adjacent car park, the largest council landholding in the area. Southwark council stands to gain a new improved leisure centre in exchange for the land.

A local resident, Carl Thomas, described the building as a "return to the Old Brutalism". The 22-storey high-rise and other huge blocks will tower over the surrounding buildings. They will dwarf the nearby Metropolitan Tabernacle, a listed building.

At a meeting of Southwark's planning committee last month, the council said it was "minded to approve consent" for the scheme. But opposition from residents has meant that the decision has been referred to John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment. He is expected to decide shortly whether to approve the plans.

According to the Royal Institute of British Architects, the last tower block projects in the capital include the Barbican, built in 1979 with one tower rising to 43 storeys, and the 20-storey Cascades tower block in London's Docklands, built between 1986 and 1988.



HERITAGE page 38
Restore The Three
Graces to their original
home at Woburn, says
Marcus Binney

ARTS

LITERATURE page 39
The much-travelled
William Riviere brings a
new twist to an old myth
in *Eros and Psyche*



Giant leap for a troubled hero

Farne at the Royal Ballet isn't enough for Irek Mukhamedov.
So he is setting off in a new direction, writes Debra Craine

His arrival at Covent Garden in June 1990, only 18 months after the seal on a great double-act. Two of the biggest names in the international dance world — arguably the two biggest — had been signed by the Royal Ballet. The belle of France and the Bolshoi beefcake: it was a coup that director Anthony Dowell could be proud of.

At first, everything went well for Irek Mukhamedov. He found new and challenging roles in the Royal's repertoire, he found the choreographer of his dreams in Kenneth MacMillan, and he became one of Covent Garden's biggest box office draws. Most exciting of all, he rewrote his own image as a dancer — from the hunky hero fashioned by Yuri Grigorovich's macho spectacles for the Bolshoi to the darkly dramatic leading man of MacMillan's more complex and psychological ballets.

Then, in October 1992, on the night Mukhamedov was making his debut in MacMillan's *Mayerling*, the choreographer died backstage during the last act. Suddenly the future didn't look so good for the Russian émigré. Without his mentor, he could see the supply of new ballets drying up and the scope for his artistic development seriously curtailed.

Since then he has continued to make his name in the MacMillan repertoire — *Different Drummer*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Mayerling* this season — but for the rest his opportunities to shine are limited. His compact and muscular frame means he is not naturally suited to every choreographic style — much of the Ashton and Balanchine repertoire is out, for example — and his credentials as a classical dancer have never been in the same league as those of Nureyev and Baryshnikov before him. And, perhaps most pressing of all, the years are starting to take their toll on a body that became famous for its physical overstatement.

No one is more aware of the ticking clock than Mukhamedov himself. Fed on the bravura theat-

rics of *Spartacus* and *Ivan the Terrible* during his nine years at the Bolshoi, and honed by three and a half years of classical discipline at the Royal, the 33-year-old Russian is anxious to capitalise on his assets while he still can.

The next few months will see him in Anthony Dowell's new production of *The Sleeping Beauty*, which tours America, and in a new ballet by Ashley Page at the Royal Opera House. But is it enough to satisfy his greed for new artistic experiences?

'I would like more performances and — maybe it's too rude to say — more ballets made for me'

"Now that I've lost Kenneth I feel it's not enough," he says. "I can do more in the Royal Ballet. I would like more performances and — maybe it's too rude to say — more ballets for myself, made for me, or that suit me instead of doing, say, *Nutcracker*, which I hate myself in. Now is a difficult time. There is a question mark over what I will do. When I had Kenneth behind me I could be more relaxed. I knew that if he made a ballet perhaps it would be for me. Now I have to prove to each choreographer that I am a dancer."

His own priorities as a star — and the demands of his healthy ego — also preclude certain options other dancers would leap at. "Last year I missed Glen Tetley because his ballet *La Rondel* was for five or six couples and I like to be a leading dancer instead of one of six couples. If Tetley had the idea of making a ballet for me I would give everything for that ballet. It doesn't matter if it's without a story, if it's completely modern. I would like to

try everything as long as I'm a leading dancer."

Which leads us to his personal project, Irek Mukhamedov and Company, an ad hoc troupe of dancers set up in 1991 to give Mukhamedov the chance to perform roles not available to him at Covent Garden. On February 9 the company makes its London debut at Sadler's Wells with a world premiere: a new version of *Othello* choreographed by Kim Brandstrup for Mukhamedov. It's a part that, the Russian, long drawn to Shakespeare's tragedy, has wanted to do for years.

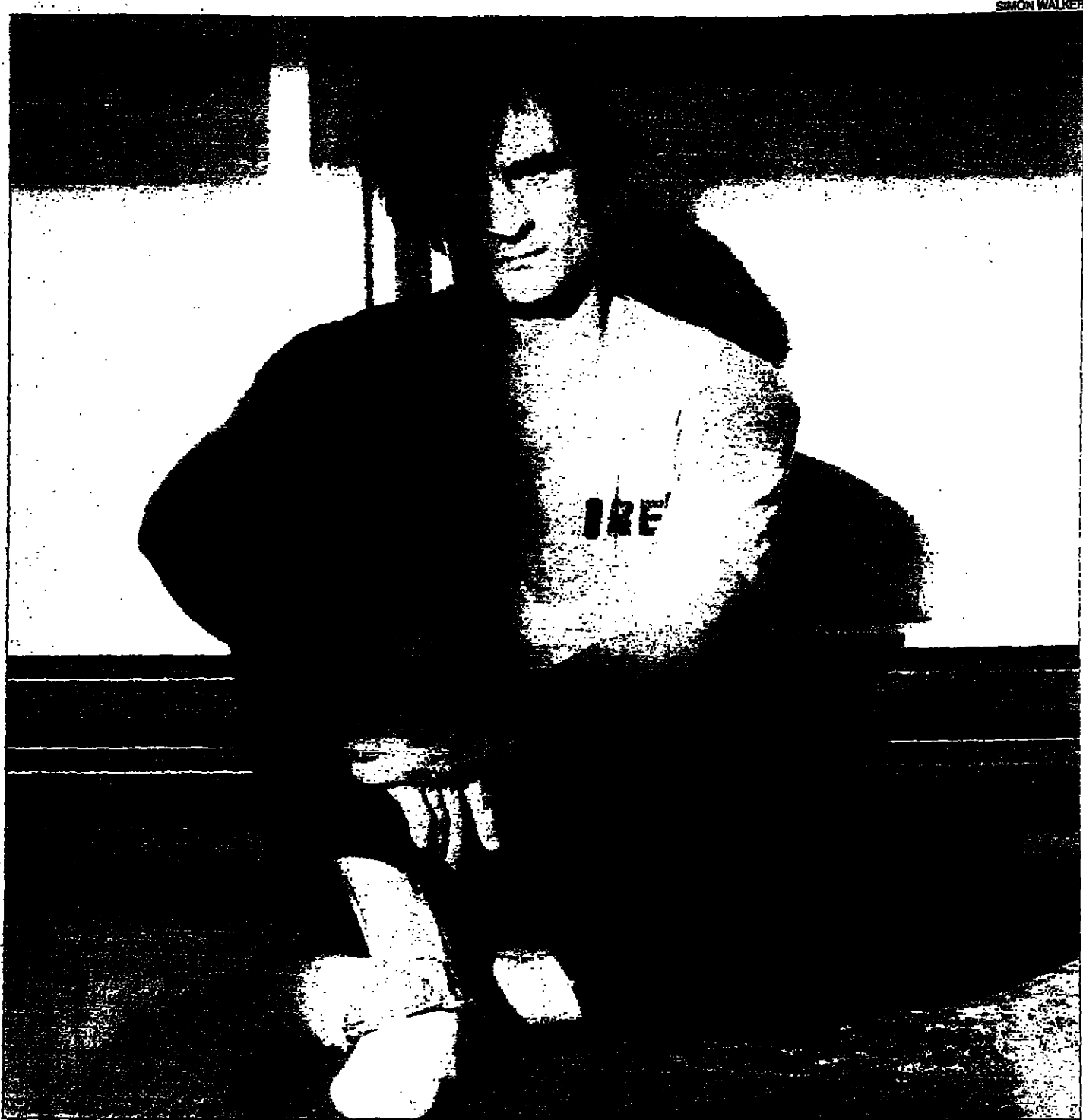
"The idea came to me a year ago when the ballet company lost Kenneth. I thought: 'What would it be with me? What would I have to do? Should I try to do choreography? And I thought if I tried to choreograph I would like to do *Othello*.'"

"I started thinking about having opera music, Verdi, and then I got stuck when I could only see my first solo and that was it. What about Desdemona? What would she do?"

Enter Brandstrup and his Arc Dance Company, who impressed Mukhamedov with *Antic*, their version of *Hamlet*, at Sadler's Wells last year. "Kim had this idea of doing everyone around *Othello* in contemporary dance and *Othello* classical, so I didn't even have to change my colour. Sometimes he makes steps more classical for me, so there are more arabesques, more big jumps, more proper classical pirouettes."

The new *Othello*, to be performed by Mukhamedov and Arc, will be the highlight of an evening that also includes a world premiere from Michael Corder (danced by Lesley Collier and Paul Chahner) and Balanchine's *Tarantella* (danced by de la Cruz and Vaganova's *Diana* and *Actaeon* both danced by Mukhamedov and Miyako Yoshida).

If the company's first season in April 1992 was anything to go by, Mukhamedov is a shrewd judge of both casting and programming. This time round, though, there have been problems. A late change



The death of his mentor Kenneth MacMillan left Irek Mukhamedov feeling he has "to prove to each choreographer that I am a dancer"

in scheduling meant his Sadler's Wells season conflicted with the Royal Ballet's "Dance Bites" tour to the regions. So his plans to use Covent Garden dancers and choreographers had to be shelved. "It became a big headache because after the mid-season break was changed I couldn't get any dancers from the Royal. Finally, thank god, I got Lesley Collier."

Has the experience given him a

taste for running a big ballet company like, say, the Royal? After all, both Nureyev and Baryshnikov ended up at the helm of major institutions.

"If I say I would like to be a director, straight away it means someone starts thinking: 'He wants to take my place'. If I say I don't want to be a director it means I don't like the idea of myself as a director, but actually that's a lie. I

like being a director, having that responsibility. It's a very good ending to a career for a top dancer to be a director. But if it comes, it comes. If not, not. Actually I would like to carry on and be a dancer."

For the time being that means staying put, even if he is not entirely satisfied with the way things work at Covent Garden. "If the Royal Ballet will be happy to have me I will be happy to give all my

experience to them. But I would like people to pay more attention to me. Take Sylvie Guillem. I think she's completely right to ask for a choreographer for herself. So next year, for example, Forsythe will do another ballet for her. I don't understand it. If they let her do it, why don't they let me?"

● Irek Mukhamedov and Company are at Sadler's Wells, EC1 (071-278 3916) from February 9 to 12

A MAN—woman gypsy, cut loose and free-wheeling, Michele Durtell is attached to her suitcase by a rope round her waist. Her ruthlessness could denote an archetypal gypsy, but even that identity seems to be a residual memory, a persona partly left behind. Her body strikes the poses of sketchy, half-forgotten flamenco as what is the most original use of that dance language I have ever seen.

A.W.O.L., presented in The Place's Resolution season, distils the flavour of both life on the run and a journey through life. Moving on, Durtell becomes a priest tinkling a ritual bell, a matador who wears his red cape like a skirt and then, like all the bulls he has killed, is repeatedly felled, his face registering surprise as his legs buckle under him with horrible indignity. Shoes lie in heaps, from which Durtell dots several pairs carefully round the stage. Standing as though worn by invisible owners, they are the ghostly symbols of the people we love who have left without warning.

A.W.O.L. was replaced the following night by Danielle Lecoartois and

DANCE REVIEW

Some gems and some paste in a showcase

**Resolution
The Place**

Peter James's piece *Mange mon coeur en corps un peu* (said out loud this translates as *Eat my Heart a Little Bit More*). From Quebec, they present a cartoon duo, a Frenchified Popeye and Olive Oyl, humorously two-dimensional but utterly human. They love each other, they coo their bliss in made-up language, they dance together with old-fashioned, tender decorum. But they can also fight, in verbal sparring matches, and Jimmy choreographs ones where she gives better than she gets and ends up nearly throttling him.

The Canadians were the best of Resolution's *Bancs d'Essai* contingent:

selected performers offered a London showcase as part of a wider international tour. The others emerged as less impressive than the best of the home participants in this open-house season for anyone willing to appear under their own financial steam.

Another *Bancs d'Essai* duet, *Stille No.2* by the Belgian Veerle Bakelants, was a grinningly contentious exercise that plundered greedily the manner of her better-known compatriot, Anne Teresa de Keersmaecker. Bakelants and her fellow sub-Keersmaeckerian exponents, the Hungarian group Sarbo, miss the emotional colouring that gives

point to Keersmaecker's gestural repetition. Sarbo's *Wall to Wall* (*Bancs d'Essai*) sprawls ambitiously without seeming more than a garbled portrayal of a theme concerning identity and enunciation.

The London Contemporary Dance School performance group was more rewarding with *Birds Fly and Life Runs Out* by Dan Wagoner. A series of dances using a range of music — from George Gershwin to Patsy Cline to Bruce Springsteen — it has variety and an attractive accessibility without ever seeming facile.

Dance Vertical, linked to the Arts Educational School, suffered from a bulky repertoire that contained all the clichés and predictability of classroom choreography; while the well-meaning but embarrassingly amateurish *Journeymen* eventually had me bolting for the exit.

Still, three nights at The Place showed that fragile rays of sunshine are glimmering in this grey climate of winter rain and financial cuts.

NADINE MEISNER

ROCK

Set for success

**Cud
Pavilion, Brighton**

A short, seven-date tour marks Cud's return with the new single "Neurotica", released next Monday as a preview of their second A&M album, due in March. This first night was like a loud sigh of relief for a band whose studio commitments have lately deprived them of the live performing they crave.

Lead singer Carl Putnam grinned throughout as though

he had been granted unexpected bail, and a small but athletic band of Cud loyalists celebrated the reappearance of long-time favourites such as "I've Had It With Blondes" and "Hey Wire".

The group's base is in indie guitar rock, but they have undermined their credibility in that area, seemingly intentionally, by incorporating elements of lightweight pop and Putnam's often buffoonish, self-mocking stage presence. But, far from being musical pranksters, Cud showed again in Brighton that they are a tightly run foursome. Putnam's powerful voice always commands attention and guitarist Mike Dunphy pulled each song into shape with some formidable riffing. Cud's tour continues at the Garage in London this evening.

PAUL SEXTON



Humphrey Bogart tries to forget Paris in *Casablanca*; Dooley Wilson adds music

Play it once, Sam, for old time's sake. "Ah don't know what you mean, Miss Ilsa." "Play it, Sam. Play 'As Time Goes By'."

Ingrid Bergman's request — indeed, large chunks of dialogue from *Casablanca* — will be familiar to millions throughout the world. The words Dooley Wilson is persuaded to sing are among the most-quoted of all time. Yet Herman Hupfeld, the song's writer, remains virtually unknown.

His name did not appear in the film credits, where the music arranger Max Steiner (who didn't even like the song) is given the honours. He's not credited in *As Time Goes By*, Laurence Leamer's biography of Bergman, or in the current television sitcom of that name. Only Alan Jay Lerner, in his celebration of *The Musical Theatre*, gives Hupfeld full credit for his masterpiece.

The song was actually written for Frances Williams to sing in the Broadway revue *Everybody's Welcome*, which opened at the Stambert Theatre on October 14, 1931. Not that it caused a great stir at the time, and the show was soon forgotten. But the song remained in people's minds through the affection of night club pla-

The nobody behind a song in a million

Born 100 years ago, Herman Hupfeld left one indelible mark on popular music — 'As Time Goes By'

ists, and singers like Elisabeth Welch. And it finally came into its own 11 years later in *Casablanca*, where its lush orchestration dominated the soundtrack.

Just about everyone knows "As Time Goes By" from the film: the powerful and painful associations it carries for Bergman and Humphrey Bogart, the surging melody, the phrases that have become part of the language. But not so well known is the clever introductory — verse, rarely sung, describing the pressures of change and the uncertainties of modern life, before the lyric launches into the famous chorus.

Little is known about Hupfeld's life. He was born in Montclair, a small town in the northwest of New York, on February 1, 1894. He must

have been something of a musical prodigy, for when nine years old he was sent to Germany to study the violin. Returning to America, he was educated at the local high school. But he was soon bitten by the show business bug, and at 18 he played and sang his own songs in Ziegfeld's *Midnight Frolic*.

After service in the US Navy in the First World War, Hupfeld continued his career as a pianist and entertainer. He started writing witty songs for the fashionable Broadway revues, including the *Life Shows* at the Music Box Theatre. "Sing Something Simple" (1930) and "When Yuba Plays the Rumba on the Tuba" (1931) were two of his numbers from these revues.

Typical of his light-hearted style is a song that is often

played nowadays on the soundtrack to documentaries about the Depression years: "Let's Put Out the Lights and Go to Sleep", from *Music Hall Varieties* in 1932. Not for Hupfeld the stark social realism of Yip Harburg's "Brother Can You Spare A Dime", which appeared only the month before, but the wryly humorous resignation of a young couple surveying the scene after a hectic party, summed up in the line: "What's to do about it?"

Despite the sophistication of his songs, Hupfeld doesn't seem to have been a very outgoing character. Mitch Parish, who wrote the lyrics to the classic "Star Dust", once met Hupfeld, standing on his own at a convention of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers

in the late 1920s. Parish, just starting out as a lyricist, approached Hupfeld (who had written no hits at that time) and asked whether he would like to collaborate on a song. He was given a cool brush-off. Hupfeld, staring rather stuffily that he always wrote his own lyrics.

During the Second World War Hupfeld travelled widely, entertaining the troops at camps and hospitals in America and Europe. He died in his home town on June 8, 1951. It seems like a quiet and uneventful life, a far cry from the lives of many of his contemporaries on the popular music scene.

One reason for Hupfeld's relative obscurity is that he never composed the full score for a Broadway show or Hollywood musical. He was essentially a miniature artist, writing songs which were interpolated into other people's revues.

But Hupfeld surely deserves to be remembered today for that one classic piece in which the romantic lyric perfectly matches the brooding melody, a song whose magic continues to enchant us as time goes by.

ROY DEAN

Otake needs time and space and 'an extensive structure, like that of Rachmaninov's First Symphony. He used his 45 minutes well here, firmly delineating in the early stages those features which have recurring significance and at the same time, gently but irresistibly, securing the emotional involvement of both the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and its audience.

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This rapidly expanding magazine publishing company based in the West End is looking for an efficient and diplomatic PA for the Chief Executive and the Managing Director. Working in a demanding and at times pressurised environment, the successful applicant will be flexible, numerate, with a good telephone manner, used to handling confidential work at all levels. Skills 100/60, W/Perfex 5.1, basic Lotus 123 useful. Age 27-35. Telephone South Bucks on 071 437 5358 or fax CV on 071 734 1120.

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47 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9HA
Tel: 071-493 8824 Fax: 071-493 7161
PA to Head of International Communications of leading Fashion retail group. An exciting new opportunity for a bright, energetic and a good record track record. A level English and an interest in journalism, copywriting, 4, 6, 8 and 12 hour shifts. £16-20,000. SVP.
Secretary/Marketing Assistant for international design company. To act as 'junior executive' to new business teams and provide secretarial support to marketing consultants along with editing company newsletters. 90% successful track record. £16,000 + benefits. Apple Mac. Age 25+. £16,000 + benefits. West London.
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PA Secretary £20,000

You'll need excellent audio & copy typing skills, 80+ wpm w/hand & spreadsheet experience for this busy role with a City investment company. Ideally you'll have WP for Windows/Excel experience & be aged between 28 & 38.

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A great temporary position within a large City telecommunications company that could become permanent. You'll need 80 wpm w/hand, Word for Windows & Excel. Experience at director level would be an advantage.

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Call WENDY or JANE
on 071-430 2531

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Senior PA

£21,000 + Banking Bens

Join the powerhouse behind the sophisticated products offered by a high-profile City Investment Bank. Working at MD level this is a role for a true professional, supporting an international business high flyer who needs someone to take responsibility for all his administration. An excellent organizer, and as the most senior PA in the department, you will be expected to take a supervisory role and set an example to the other secretaries. A European language is useful, City/Financial experience essential. Age 25-45. Skills 100/60 wpm. Please telephone Kate Hodson on 071-377 8827.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Executive Secretary £17,000

This is an opportunity for a professional & articulate secretary to really grow within a prestigious organisation. Taking on the duties of a true PA, you'll have the opportunity to perform but will be an excellent administrator with BS5750 quality assurance experience & lots of initiative. The company is friendly & based in lovely offices in W1. A warm personality & helpful approach will be well regarded & an 'A' level education & sound WP skills are essential. Ideally, you'll be aged late 20's.

Call CARMELA on
071-629 0777

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Due to increased business, this successful international City Bank is expanding its recruitment of high calibre PA/Secretaries. Dedicated to work will be highly rewarded and total job involvement guaranteed. All positions available immediately.

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Circa £18k

Pro-active across the board skills, able to function effectively on small and large projects as expert support. A strong, outgoing personality with a proven record at this level is key, in order to interface with group activities in a positive fashion.

Applicants aged between 30 - 40 are preferred. Please forward applications to: Mrs Jane Craig

Eurolink Group Plc
Blenheim House, 56 Old Steine, Brighton BN1 1NH

Telephone: 0273 203316

Facsimile: 0273 205614

SECRETARY

Well established Japanese Property Developer & Investor in Tokyo requires experienced secretary in London EC4. You will be intelligent, have excellent secretarial skills and be keen to join a small team. Experience in all aspects of running a small office essential. Salary negotiable depending on age & experience. Apply in writing with CV stating current salary to:

KOWA FUDOSAN (UK) LTD
BRACKEN HOUSE
10 CANNON STREET
LONDON EC4M 6SJ

(No Agencies)

PA/OFFICE MANAGER

We are the best in our field - are you the best in yours? You will be the Personal Assistant to Stephanie Churchill and be responsible for the general administrative management of the office. We need someone with endless energy - ideally you will be a graduate who is fully conversant with WP 5.1, be able to juggle schedules, have good administrative and book keeping knowledge with at least one years relevant work experience. If you can fulfil these criteria, and more, then please send in your cv and covering letter to: Giselle Zordan, Stephanie Churchill PR, 5 Imperial Studios, Imperial Road, London, SW6 2AG. Tel: 071 371 9011.

Chairman & Chief Executive's PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Top level support in a major PLC.

Up to £25,000p.a. + benefits.

London W2.

The Chairman and Chief Executive of a major blue-chip PLC requires a highly capable and discreet PA to provide him with right hand support in organising all of his activities and enabling him to maximise the use of his time.

You will provide comprehensive and efficient administrative support, ensuring that he is always fully briefed on all relevant matters and organising his diary for business, social and charitable activities. The Company has international interests requiring him to be away from the office on a regular basis. Therefore, you will be expected to organise travel arrangements and itineraries and operate effectively on your own initiative, maintaining the smooth running of his office. You will have typing support to call upon, leaving you free to concentrate personally on items of an organisational and sensitive nature.

You must be a highly experienced Chief Executive's secretary with top level skills developed in a blue-chip environment. You will be highly numerate and comfortable in dealing with financial matters. In addition, you should possess excellent presentation and communication skills, a pleasant and diplomatic personality and have the flexibility to operate within a demanding, high profile role. A mature and supportive approach in dealing with and briefing other people at all levels is essential.

Salary will be up to £25,000 and this indicates the calibre of candidate required. Benefits are attractive and include 25 days holiday and pension scheme.

In the first instance please write quoting reference RH/5694 and enclosing full personal and career details, to: Stafford Long & Partners Recruitment Limited, 30-32 Whitfield Street, London W1P 6HR. All replies will be forwarded direct to our client.



PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR

£15,915 - £19,443 inc.

The Director of the London Waste Regulation Authority has an extremely busy work schedule. In order to ensure that he is always functioning at peak performance, he needs the organisation, support and administrative abilities of a highly experienced Personal Assistant.

The role requires complete dedication and a total commitment to ensuring that the Director's time is used as effectively as possible. This will mean acting as the initial contact for all callers, dealing with matters yourself and redirecting items not requiring the Director's personal attention. You will also be handling all the Director's mail, drafting correspondence, taking minutes, typing confidential and urgent documents, organising the Director's diary and making all necessary hotel, catering and travel arrangements. Also, as the Office Manager, you'll supervise and coordinate the work of a small

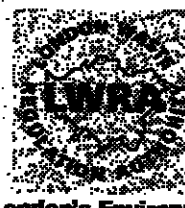
team providing support to the other members of the Management Board.

Unfappable and extremely patient, you will need the finely-tuned communication skills necessary to deal sensitively and diplomatically with a wide range of people. An understanding of the importance of confidentiality is obviously essential as is the ability to research and produce reports and management briefs. You will need minimum speeds of 90/45 wpm.

For an application form and further details, telephone 071-587 3032 (ansaphone) or write - using a postcard only - to the London Waste Regulation Authority, Personnel Department, Room 206, Hampton House, 20 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7JL. Please quote reference LW109. Closing date: 11th February 1994.

The Authority has an Equal Opportunities Policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community and particularly from people with disabilities.

Job Starters welcome.



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PERFECT PERSONNEL C.£18k + BANK BENS

Your Excellent secretarial and administrative skills will be in constant demand in the hectic personnel department of this major City Bank. You will enjoy active involvement in all areas of Human Resources and become a key member of the team.

Please call
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SECRETARY TO DEPUTY DIRECTORS

c£14,500 + 5% wks hols + STL

Major Trade Association requires an experienced secretary (non-smoker) to work for its two Deputy Directors. Applicants must have considerable secretarial, administrative and organisational experience, excellent word processing (Word for Windows) and computing skills.

As well as general secretarial duties (including audio), you will be required to organise and prioritise work to ensure both offices run smoothly and deal with the administration/co-ordination of some Association events.

Please write with CV to: Janice Kew, GAMBICA Association Ltd, Leicester House, 8 Leicester Street, London WC2H 7BN

LIFE OF LUXURY C.£15,000

If you enjoy organising a constant stream of events and VIP's, then this could be the opportunity for you! Based at London's finest address, this role will utilize your secretarial and administration skills in an exciting environment.

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PA/SECRETARY TO DIRECTOR

Due to maternity leave, the above position has become vacant on a temporary basis, initially on a three month contract and renewable on a monthly basis. The position may become permanent.

The role involves working primarily for two Directors and will include general secretarial duties as well as arranging lunches/meetings/functions and travel bookings for both. The ideal candidate will possess accurate typing speeds of 80/50 wpm and shorthand speeds of 100+ wpm. Previous experience of Word for Windows is essential.

Please write enclosing CV to:

Jenny Ayres
Personnel Manager
Euro Brokers Ltd
133 Houndsditch
LONDON EC3A 7AJ.

WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?

£28,000 To the Executive suite of an American Company in Mayfair as PA to the Chairman.

£22,000 To Television where the Chairman needs a PA who is free to travel.

£20,000 To the creative world of design and marketing to run the Chairman's office.

£25,000 To the private residence of a wealthy and influential English family in London.

Age group 25-38 Skills 100/70

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

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YOUNG SEC £17k + Bens

Supporting senior team with all aspects of corporate administration, co-ordinating travel, scheduling, preparing presentations & managing expenses. Adaptable fast WP skills are essential.

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PA to Executive Director of International Development Finance and Investment, responsible for all aspects of the company's public relations and media work. Excellent opportunity for a young professional with a degree in a relevant field. Salary £15-£16k. Please send CV to: Royds Raphael Rec. Tel: 071 287 2050.

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Cheque enclosed for £ _____

Date _____ Complete this form and send with cheque for £25 (£20 before 19/2/94) payable to: The Industrial Society, CBU, Freeport BM 4380, Birmingham B15 1BR

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CHAIRMAN'S PA
£20,000

The last PA enjoyed this exciting role for seven years and considered good organisational ability and a flair for client relations an advantage. You will have involvement with a range of activities including travel and itinerary management as well as corporate entertainment and international board meetings. High type content at times and database maintenance. A fulfilling role for a committed PA. 60wpm typewriting required. Shorthand useful.

Please telephone: 071-628 9529

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

INTERBRAND
DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY
Salary c.£15,500 plus benefits

Interbrand is an international branding consultancy. We are looking for a secretary to work for the Director in charge of the brand naming division in our London office. The ideal candidate will have excellent shorthand/typing (90/65 wpm) and organisational skills; enjoy working as part of a team and have the ability to work under pressure. A knowledge of Apple Mac (Microsoft Word, Excel and Quark Xpress) would be an advantage. In return we offer a good salary and benefits. Please send your CV with hand-written covering letter to:

See Ridley, Interbrand UK Ltd
40 Long Acre, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9JT
(No agencies please)

ACCOUNTANT
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PA/SECRETARY
 Top executive of small new
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 company requires
 PA/Secretary. Located W1.
 Excellent pensionational and
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 Audio and Word for
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Fulham based small but
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 needs a self-motivated
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Call us on 616-1651
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£12-13K
Leading fashion house based
Knightsbridge is looking for a br

enthusiastic Secretary to become an integral member of a small team with a variety of duties including reception, typing and shorthand, as well as liaising with customers, store managers and designers. Will be expected of you. We need a strong personality with a perfect presentation and great organizational skills. Age 22-25

TO GET CITY!
(Incl pkg)

**Bonus + Mort
pens + Med +**

German, 90/10 wpm, advanced WP 5.1 & enjoy heavy typing content. A 26-45, paid O/T, bonus other hens.

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Serving leading photographers
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CV to Brian de Kretzer, Print
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PA/SECRETARY
Confident, enthusiastic, good
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the following positions:

**IN THE
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Must have excellent administrative and organizational skills. (WP 4 Windows 5.2) Salary negotiable. Please send CV to Anna Bells, Anna Bells Personnel Services, 11000 Highway 100, Suite 100, Houston, Texas 77036. EOE

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Salary C£18,000 +
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Word for Windows Secretaries

For our major client the European Bank for Reconstruction & Development

We currently require experienced secretaries for a variety of temporary opportunities. A city or financial background would be ideal. Short-hand always useful.

If you have the required word processing knowledge, and are looking for work within a challenging international environment, supported by an attractive pay & benefits package, please call Claire Baker immediately.

Tel: 071-488 2880

78 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 4BT

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You can measure the difference

PA TO COMPANY DIRECTOR - HERTS

Required for small, established company who are UK market leaders. Flexibility, initiative and a sense of fun are essential in this high growth, innovative company. Must have good communication and computer skills. Prior experience at this level is important. Age 24+. Years salary will be commensurate with the importance of the position.

Please send a brief CV to: Helen Hiles, Applicant, Duddwell Lane, Berkhamstead, Herts HP14 3TQ or telephone 0442 863918

RIGHT-HAND REQUIRED

Top High Executive Assistant/Secretary to the two founding partners of a new private and international company. Professional salary and performance bonus.

Published confidential skills. Secretarial skills in an expanding, dynamic and a level standard that is a challenge for completing hard work to a deadline. A lively sense of humour.

A personable manner with a professional approach. Applications enclosing CV (including current remuneration) in writing please. Macdonald, 23 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4JH. NO AGENCIES

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£225,000 package Central London

This is a rare opportunity to join a leading office skills training organisation. Located in Central London, within an established and highly respected college, this position offers immediate career prospects to a committed professional.

In the first instance please contact Les Painter on 071 626 5283.



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£20,000 + paid o/t

Dynamic American Consultant seeks rare breed working closely on a one-to-one basis, handling personal requirements, managing daily activities within a large organisation as well as having advanced expertise on AppleMac. A degree of numeracy, unflappable and flexible approach with excellent secretarial skills & presentation. Min 55wpm typing, A-Level/grad. Age 28-33yrs.

Tel: 071-437 3793 Fax: 071-287 8967

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Lettings Negotiator, SW1

Due to expansion, Strutt & Parker urgently require an experienced and enthusiastic Lettings Negotiator with a bubbly and outgoing personality. Full driving licence essential. Please apply in strict confidence in writing to telephone Vanessa Pidgeon or Mary McDonagh, Strutt & Parker, 66 Stone Street, London SW1X 9SL. Telephone: 071 - 235 9959.

MEGA BUSY PA/SEC

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PLEASE TELEPHONE 071 264 107 FOR DETAILS.

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We are an international management consultancy seeking an experienced PA to work for the MD in an interesting and challenging role. The candidate must have excellent organisational skills, fast, accurate typing, telephone experience and sound knowledge of WPD 0. A good telephone manner, ability to work under pressure and skilled in senior management levels. The position is challenging and highly rewarding.

Please send CV to: Shirley Dore, J. Consulting, James House, 1 Baines Street, St James's SW1Y 6BD or fax 071-925 2636.

SECRETARY TO MD

MD of an IT consulting Company requires an experienced secretary with good secretarial skills and shorthand. Applicant must be fluent in English and able to speak French as a distinct advantage.

Please write enclosing CV to: SDV UK LTD, 41 Adler Street, London EC1A 1EN

Stars & Stripes

£18,500 + bonus

2 American attorneys are seeking an excellent Sec with 10 to 15 years exp. You must be happy to type for a large part of the day, have advanced WP 5.1, Age 24-45, B.A., STL, bonus & paid O/T.

Verity Rec Coos 071-344 9710.

HIGH PROFILE GERMAN

£25,000 + Banking

Part-time role in City with 1 to 10 hrs per week. German speaking PA to be responsible for a large part of the day, have advanced WP 5.1, Age 24-45, B.A., STL, bonus & paid O/T.

Please call 071-277 7605

PA/ADMINISTRATOR

Required to run busy Mayor's office in New King's Road, close to Canary Wharf. The MD, this demanding role requires someone with initiative, motivation and good organisational skills. Knowledge of spread sheets would be useful.

Please telephone Della Green on 071 409 7333

HARLEY STREET

Personable & efficient PA Administrator to organise & run busy medical Centre. WP, computer & interpersonal skills essential. Medical background.

Fax CV to 071-535 8872. For further details call 071-488 2121 on Friday 10 to 12pm.

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Required for Property Company in New King's Road, close to Canary Wharf. First class references essential. Good salary.

Please send CV to: Bonnies Construction Ltd, 184 New Kings Road, London SW6 4SR.

SUPER SECRETARIES

APPLICABLE PA needed by American Company - £20,000 per annum. Secretary 071 626 5283.

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ARCHITECTS require PA/Sec. to work for two in their respective departments. Tel: 071 265 6135.

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£18,000 PA to the ambitious MD of expanding IT. Needs excellent secretarial skills, experience in the IT industry, administration & the supervisory role of the office. Salary £18,000 per annum. Tel: 071 626 5283.

A strategic secretarial position in a leading City law firm. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the firm's secretarial services. Salary £18,000 per annum. Tel: 071 626 5283.

A superb opportunity to work in a small but very busy and successful company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the firm's secretarial services. Salary £18,000 per annum. Tel: 071 626 5283.

AUDIT PA. Mid 20's for established City law firm. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the firm's secretarial services. Salary £18,000 per annum. Tel: 071 626 5283.

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Murray relishes role on Super Bowl stage



Aikman: besieged

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN ATLANTA

IN A stadium so plush it seemed more like a theatre, Eddie Murray talked rugby and soccer yesterday while all around him the world's media besieged his team-mates and discussed the intricacies of American football. Murray plays for America's Team, the Dallas Cowboys, but he owes his career to his English upbringing.

His is one of the modern-day fairytales that the Super Bowl throws up from time to time amid the annual sea of hype that, this year, began in earnest yesterday when both teams submitted themselves to Media Day. Troy Aikman, Jim Kelly and the other big-name players were soon submerged by microphones and cameras. Murray stood alone at first, gazing at the pennants fluttering from the

roof of Atlanta's Georgia Dome.

He was released by the Detroit Lions at the end of 1991, consigned to the scrapheap at the end of a successful but modest career as a place-kicker and resigned himself to a humdrum career as a partner in a firm selling food in bulk in Michigan.

Yet, after a year on the sidelines, Dallas dispensed with their kicker, Lin Elliott, after a poor start to the season and Murray, 37, who was described by one TV announcer this week as "a fossil place-kicker", beat six other hopefuls to the job. Five months later, with an National Football Conference (NFC) East division-winning field goal in overtime against the New York Giants already behind him, he found himself the veteran among the NFL's youngest team preparing to face the Buffalo Bills in Super



Bowl XXVIII on Sunday. The destiny of the match in Atlanta could, quite literally, lie at his feet.

He was born in Nova Scotia and, when he was five, his family moved to Portsmouth, where Murray grew up with friends who idolised Bobby Charlton and Jimmy Greaves. He played soccer and rugby and when the family moved to western Canada ten years later, he was reluctant to give them up and persevered with the sports until he went to

Tulane University in New Orleans.

"I played soccer at school for Hampshire," he said. "I played rugby, too, usually at fly half, but sometimes full back or scrum half. When I moved back to Canada, I kept playing rugby because it was popular in British Columbia, but when I went to university I gave it up. It just seemed like a natural progression for me to become a place-kicker. Some of the technique was already there. It had to be developed, but it is essentially the same."

Murray spent 11 seasons with Detroit, but was cut when they signed a second-round draft pick, Jason Hanson, in 1992. He joined the "kickers' carousel" and had unsuccessful and short-lived associations with Kansas City and Tampa Bay.

"After that, I was unemployed," he said. "I would sit

around watching the games on the television and it is the nature of the beast that when you are in the situation I was in, you are hoping other guys are going to hit lean spells. You do not want them to get hurt, just miss a few. I was soon a statistician on the failures."

When the chance came, Murray took it. He has performed well all season and kicked the field goal that sealed the Cowboys' 38-21 win over the San Francisco 49ers in Sunday's NFC championship game.

"When we won, I could not believe it," he said. "It is immensely gratifying at this stage in my career to be playing in a Super Bowl."

"It is what every player wants and if winning or losing comes down to one of my kicks, then so much the better. I would relish the challenge."

Unorthodox Japanese reaches semi-finals of Australian Open

Dexterity deals Date winning hand

FROM STUART JONES
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN MELBOURNE

A NEW fashion may have been set in women's tennis this year. If Kimiko Date's example is followed, players will cook their own food, concentrate on being ambidextrous, acquire trainers who are experts in acupuncture and take three months off at the end of each year.

It is a formula that took Date to the New South Wales Open title in Sydney ten days ago and to become the first Japanese woman to reach the semi-final of a grand slam event for two decades. Yesterday, she defeated Conchita Martinez, the third seed, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 in the Australian Open.

Should she cause an even greater surprise by beating Steffi Graf tomorrow, everyone will be scrutinising the unconventional yet evidently productive methods. Nor are they Date's only peculiarity. At 5ft 4in, she represents a small and effective antidote to the power game.

Like many of her contemporaries, Martinez applies excessive topspin, invariably looping the ball in a high arc. Date's trajectory is comparatively flat and her accuracy is consistent enough for her to have risen to No 9 in the world rankings. This week, she has climbed even higher.

Instead of eating pasta, the staple diet of her fellow competitors, Date prefers to prepare a bowl of rice. She eats with her left hand, usually plays with her right but has an uncommon ability to switch should the need arise.

"I'm naturally left-handed but, 20 years ago, Japanese girls were forced to be traditionally right-handed," she said, through an interpreter (she intends to obey a directive from the Women's Tennis Association that she should learn English). "Also, since



Date switches to a left-handed grip on match point during her three-set win over Martinez in the women's quarter-finals yesterday

there were no left-handed Japanese players, I thought the game was played only with the right hand."

To ease the aching muscles and fatigue that has accumulated over the last three weeks, Date subjects herself to a daily treatment of acupuncture or, as she more precisely put it, okibari. The difference is that the needles, inserted in her legs by her trainer, go only "into the shallow depth" of the skin.

She can claim to be the freshest of the leading contenders, anyway. Whereas they had given themselves only the briefest respite after playing in the Virginia Slims tournament in New York last month, she had been resting and training at her home in Kyoto since September.

Her size, she concedes, is a handicap. "We are not as big and strong as our opponents but I am trying to show the up-and-coming Japanese players that we can be among the top players in the world." Her attempts so far have been a spectacular success. She is the

first of their representatives to reach the last four since Kazuko Sawamatsu knocked out Virginia Wade at the same stage at Koyong in 1973. If, at the third attempt, she claims her first victory against Steffi Graf, she will create Japanese history in the open era.

Martinez, clearly not in prime form at Flinders Park, had an additional handicap. Towards the end of the second set, when she was staging a brief recovery, her ears popped and she lost her sense of timing.

So did Lindsay Davenport,

later on the same centre court. Ten inches taller than Date, she was expected to match Graf for power.

At times, she was armed with sufficient brawn but the top seed had the brain to outmanoeuvre the inexperienced 17-year-old and went through 6-3, 6-2 in little more than an hour.

Date's career lies ahead but that of Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere, in grand slam events, is now behind her. Not that Francois, her husband, will mind. He took his pulse during her tense victory over Sabine Hack in the third round. It was 192 and he felt a coronary imminent.

Maleeva-Fragniere — like her younger sister, Magdalena Maleeva, in the previous round — was the victim of Arantza Sanchez Vicario, the second seed. In the semi-finals, the Spaniard will renew acquaintances with a familiar rival, Gabriela Sabatini, who overcame nautica in the morning and then Jana Novotna last night.

Sabatini woke up with a stomach complaint but, after an injection, slept off the effects and went on to outplay the beaten Wimbledon finalist of last year, who had been considered the most serious threat to Graf. Those given the needle impressed the most yesterday.



Date stretches for a return, this time using her right hand, on the way to victory

Dickson turns to courts

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN AUCKLAND

AS *Odesa* and *Uruguay Natural*, the last two yachts in the Whitbread Round the World Race, continued to struggle in light airs to reach Auckland at the end of the third stage in this 32,000-mile marathon, interest ashore has turned to the sailing court, where Chris Dickson, skipper of *Tokio*, is demanding justice from both the race committee and competitors.

Dickson, who has also become embroiled in disagreement with his rival New Zealand skipper, Grant Dalton, is taking the race director, Ian Bailey-Wilmott, to task for insisting that *Tokio's* radar dome, set prominently on the yacht's main mast, may not be removed while racing.

Dickson contends that it is good seamanship to unbolt the revolving antennae in bad weather. Bailey-Wilmott insists that its removal improves the yacht's stability factor and lessens windage, giving the *Tokio* team an unfair advantage against rivals who all

have their radar mounted permanently on stubby masts on the stern.

The protest issued by the race committee was thrown out by the jury because it had not been lodged correctly.

Dickson is also taking Dennis Conner's American entry, *Winston*, to task for allegedly having fittings on her mast made from a high-grade stainless steel outlawed in the rules.

A similar protest against *Lawrie Smith's Intrum Justitia* has been dropped because the British skipper, who joined the yacht shortly before the start of the second leg from Punta del Este, has promised to replace the fittings if the allegations prove to be true.

The jury, headed by Steve Roberts, from Britain, who has been brought in to replace the former chairman, Marcel Leeman, will also hear requests from the Spanish entry, *Galicia 93*, *Pescanova*, and *Intrum Justitia* to reopen the issue of redress for the yachts that turned back to aid the Italian entry, *Brooksfield*, when she broke her rudder midway across the Indian Ocean.

The jury, under Marcel Leeman's leadership, compensated *Winston* with a generous 22½-hour time allowance that lifted the American entry from fifth to second in the overall standings.

Harris finally emerges

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

JEZ Harris, the Leicester stand-off half, completed the transformation from ugly duckling to swan yesterday when he was named in England's emerging players squad for the game against Spain in Esche on February 6.

Harris, 28, reached what he believed to be the summit of a 12-year career at Leicester by playing in the Pilkington Cup final against Harlequins in May, but after years in the shadow cast by Les Cusworth, then Brian Smith and Gerry Ainscough, Harris has blossomed to such a degree over the last 18 months that he deserves his chance.

He has also taken over the responsibility of goal-kicking from John Lily at Leicester to such effect that he now stands six short of 200 points for the season and is the third highest accumulator among first-division clubs, behind Rob Andrew and Paul Grayson. Grayson, of Northampton, is the other stand-off named in the squad of 30 that will train

this weekend, but his inconsistent form — or that of his club — should count against him in the XV to play Spain.

Two other experienced players plucked at a comparatively advanced stage of their careers are Andy Tunningley, the Saracens full back, and Derek Eves, the Bristol flanker. Tunningley, who won a blue for Cambridge as a replacement in the 1988 University match, has added an extra dimension to Saracens'

bid for first division rugby, both with his attacking ability and his points scoring. Eves forced himself into the South and South-West divisional side ahead of Andy Robinson this season and looks a likely candidate to captain the team in Spain.

Ten of the squad were included in the most recent England A party and it will be disappointing for such players as Matt Greenwood and Martin Hynes that they appear to have been downgraded. However, not until this Sunday, when England name teams to play Scotland, Italy and Spain over the weekend of February 5-6, will the exact pecking order be confirmed.

Laurence Boyle, the Leicester and Oxford University centre who has appeared for England's Under-21 side, has opted for Ireland. Boyle, from Leamington but whose father is Irish, played for an Irish student's side against a Munster development XV in Limerick last weekend.

SQUAD

BACKS: A Lumsden (Bath), A Tunningley (Saracens), H Thompson (Northampton), P Hogg (Gloucester), D O'Shea (Leicester), J Slegbrooke (Worcester), G Thompson (Rugby), G Girdle (Worcester), J Fletcher (Northampton), D Edwards (Worcester), P Grayson (Northampton), J Harris (Leicester), R Kilian (Gloucester), I Barendse (Bath).

FORWARDS: G Compton (Bath), D Cornford (Leicester), M Hynes (Oxford), D Deacon (Gloucester), J Mitchell (Rugby), Harespock, G French (Oxford), M Haug (Bath), M Poole (Leicester), A Snow (Leamington), R West (Gloucester), M Greenwood (Worcester), C Sheehy (Gloucester), L Duggie (Saracens), D Eves (Bath).

SPORT IN BRIEF

Taylor has advice for keen Venables

GRAHAM Taylor yesterday gave his full support to his expected successor as England football manager with the following piece of advice: "Just make certain you do not lose, pal." Speaking while the Football Association (FA) was still negotiating with Terry Venables, Taylor said that Venables had already shown admirable keenness by not telling the FA to "stuff the job" (John Goodbody writes).

He said he knew of no footballing reason why Venables should not get the job. Taylor said: "If I have stirred anything in the FA nest, privately, not publicly, it was to let them know that whether I stayed on or not as England manager, they must look at the whole structure to give the manager more than an even chance."

Taylor, speaking on BBC Radio Five the day after the screening of the controversial Channel 4 programme, *Graham Taylor: The Impossible Job*, defended his record as England manager and particularly his relationship with Paul Gascoigne. He poured scorn on suggestions that he did not talk to Gascoigne about any problems. "I know and Lazio know how often I have been there."

O'Sullivan struggles

SNOOKER: Ronnie O'Sullivan is still unhappy with his form, despite reaching the final stages of the £180,000 Klostner Thailand Open in Bangkok. O'Sullivan, beaten by Mark King, ranked No 169 in the world, in the final qualifying round of the International Open four days ago, beat Gary Wilkinson, 5-4, yesterday. But the result did little to please the 18-year-old UK champion, who goes into the first round against James Wattana, who will be the local hero when the tournament resumes in Bangkok in March.

"Over the last couple of weeks I've played my worst snooker since I turned professional," O'Sullivan said. Last week, he also struggled to qualify for the televised phase of the Embassy world championship.

Chinese breakthrough

GOLF: Zheng Wen-jun will next week become the first golfer from the People's Republic of China to play in a European Tour event. The amateur, 24, has received a special sponsor's exemption to play in the Johnnie Walker Classic at the Blue Canyon Country Club in Phuket, Thailand, from February 3 to 6. The European tour will break new ground from October 13 to 16 with the staging of the Czech Open. The tournament, in the same week as the Toyota World Match Play Championship at Wentworth, will count towards Ryder Cup qualification. The host club, Marianske Lazne, staged the European men's amateur team championship last year.

Gibson before panel

RUGBY LEAGUE: Rugby Football League officials have summoned Wally Gibson, the Oldham full back, to appear before the disciplinary panel tomorrow after studying video evidence of a high tackle that left the jaw of Andy Thompson, the Hull Kingston Rovers second-row forward, broken in two places. Thompson will not play again this season. Gibson was cited by Hull Kingston Rovers following the incident last week and faces a lengthy suspension if he is found guilty. Emosi Koloto, of Widnes, is also to appear before the panel. The forward was sent off on Monday in a reserve-team fixture with Castleford.

England start well

TABLE TENNIS: England made a delayed but effective start to their defence of their men's team title at the Commonwealth championships in Hyderabad, India yesterday, beating Singapore 5-0 after a postponement of the first morning session because several countries had not arrived at the event. Alan Cooke, the former Commonwealth singles champion, began with straight-games successes while Andrew Eden, making only his second appearance for England, also won twice. Northern Ireland beat Cyprus 5-2 and Scotland's women gained a walkover against Uganda.

Norman's exhibition

GOLF: Greg Norman, right, turned a five-man competition into a one-man exhibition in Dubai yesterday. The 38-year-old Open champion, the leading attraction at the Desert Classic, which starts tomorrow, took on Fred Couples, Bernhard Langer, Colin Montgomerie and Isao Aoki, of Japan, over nine holes and shot a splendid 31, five under par, finishing six strokes clear of his rivals.



Fencer killed

FENCING: A 20-year-old medical student was killed during a workout when his opponent's broken epee blade pierced his protective vest. Gilles Malet was stabbed during a training session involving ten students and an instructor in Rodez in southern France. Gerard Crepeau, the president of the fencing club, said Malet was wearing a standard vest made of kevlar, which is normally capable of preventing such accidents. Malet had been fencing since the age of seven and competed in the national junior championships last season.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow			
	L	U	Piste	On/tp				
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	100	175	good	varied	art	line	3	20/1
Some north facing slopes becoming quite hard								
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	25	120	fair	heavy	slush	rain	3	25/1
Mayrhofen	0	70	good	heavy	closed	rain	4	25/1
Oberurgl	85	140	good	good	slush	cloud	-2	25/1
Söld	15	65	poor	heavy	slush	cloud	5	24/1
Below 1500m becoming heavy and slushy								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	120	210	good	varied	varied	fair	1	25/1
Avonnes	150	180	good	varied	good	rain	1	25/1
Isola	170	250	good	varied	good	cloud	2	18/1
Tignes	155	320	good	heavy	good	snow	-4	25/1
On piste very cold up and heavy								
SWITZERLAND								
Aras	90	90	poor	powder	good	fair	2	25/1
C Montana	40	140	good	heavy	fair	snow	2	25/1
Gstaad	20	80	very	slush	below 2000m	rain	3	17/1
Mürren	50	110	heavy	heavy	slush	rain	4	25/1
Verbier	20	330	fair	heavy	slush	rain	5	25/1
Villars	25	160	good	heavy	wet	rain	6	25/1
Wengen	20	60	slush	heavy	slush	rain	4	25/1
Water sliding on slushy snow								

Source. Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial

11

England endure crash course in cricket culture



Salisbury: punished

Griffiths to outline proposals for new authority

By IVO TENNANT

AN MCC working party set up to make recommendations on the future of the game, as well as to examine the future of the club, will submit a report to members at Lord's this evening. It is expected to propose that a new, central board of control should be established.

This would replace the Cricket Council, which since 1968 has governed the game in Britain. It would effectively comprise the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) and would incorporate the National Cricket Association (NCA), which administers the game below first-class level.

The TCCB and NCA have been sent copies of the findings of the working party. The idea is that a single board of control would simplify the administration of the game and streamline the numerous organisations within it.

The working party has been chaired by Lord Griffiths, a former president of MCC. Set up in the aftermath of the special general meeting last year when members voted on a motion of no confidence in the England selectors, it included Dennis Oliver and Nigel Knott, two of the leading dissidents, John Barclay and Paul Parker, both former county captains, also sat on it.

After six meetings in six months, the working party's findings were approved by MCC's committee last week. Within what is likely to be a crowded Long Room, Lord Griffiths will also outline the MCC's future now that its secretary no longer works for the International Cricket Council.

Alan Smith, the chief executive of the TCCB, may attend the meeting in his capacity as a member of MCC. The TCCB and the NCA have discussed in the past whether the Cricket Council should be replaced, but might not be enamoured at the prospect of MCC, a private club, taking the initiative.

The Cricket Council, which was reconstituted in 1974 and 1983, includes, among others, eight members of the TCCB, five members of the NCA and three of MCC. It is chaired by the chairman of the TCCB, Frank Chambers. Smith acts as its secretary, Michael Melluish, one of MCC's representatives, was also a member of the Griffiths working party. A Staffordshire club has failed in an ambitious attempt to sign Shane Warne, the Australian leg spinner. Warne was keen to join Stone, of the North Staffordshire and South Cheshire League, but Australia's tour of South Africa, followed by his forthcoming marriage, made him unavailable until mid-June.

From Andrew Longmore in St John's, Antigua. THE Antiguans have proved a rather better advertisement for the strength of local club cricket than England might have cared for so early in their tour. The opposition for these four days, remember, is the island's Second XI, a conglomerate side of club and former first-class cricketers drawn from the six parishes that make up Antigua's 108 square miles.

Imagine, for example, a town like Bedford, roughly the equal of Antigua's population of 60,000, giving the West Indian touring team a good game — or producing two successive national captains, for that matter.

In a land where the basics of

the game are inherited, not taught, where coaching is frowned on as unnecessary frill, and where the West Indian captain, Richie Richardson, can emerge from a tiny village that boasts a hairdresser's but no cricket team, England have gained a precious, if unerving, insight into the standards set even at the humblest levels. Cricket is part of life's rhythm, so integral to the history of these islands that the University of the West Indies has recently established a course on cricket entitled Cricket Culture in West Indian Civilisation.

As a Cambridge history graduate, Mike Atherton is in a better position than most to appreciate the instinctive understanding the Caribbean

people in general, and the Antiguan in particular, have for the game. By the end of the tour, the England captain should have gained a honorary degree in Caribbean cricket culture. Even yesterday, the third day of competitive cricket on a long tour, he was studying hard, stroking his chin in contemplation as his second division attack, minus the injured Mike Watkin, was dispatched with contemptuous ease by the local team, McChesney Simon, the captain of the Antiguan XI.

From the moment Simon took an exploratory glance at Salisbury and deposited the first over of the morning for 15, including a six and a four, England teetered on the verge of embarrassment and by

mid-afternoon they were still working their way laboriously through Antigua's tail-end assortment of tyros and old-timers. Unwittingly, England have done wonders for the Antiguan's long-standing claim to cricketing independence from the other islands in the Leeward.

Had it not been for Caddick, whose only previous experience of the West Indies had been on a club tour to Barbados in his youth, but who seems to have uncovered a mean streak since arriving here, England would have been in even greater trouble. Caddick continued to impress,

adding two more wickets to his pair from the previous day, one caught by Russell, the other well taken by Hick.

Simon, though, was unimpressed. Having set about the leg-spinner early in the day, he transferred his considerable attentions to the unfortunate legless, taking three fours from an over just before lunch and reaching his century with a straight drive just afterwards. His hundred was made off 163 balls and included 11 fours and a six.

Caddick took his fifth and final wicket when Lewis, one of three substitutes used during the day, leapt to take a high catch at cover and the Antiguan were all out for 360, 59 runs behind England's first innings. Simon was the last

out, brilliantly caught by Smith running back from short fine leg.

For the second day, neither Stewart, with a sore hamstring, nor Watkin, suffering a back spasm, appeared in the field. Watkin's injury is the more worrying of the two, if only because he was regarded as the one indestructible member of the bowling squad. In three A team tours, he has not suffered one absence and last summer pummed down 766 overs for Glamorgan. Only his county colleague, Robert Croft, bowled more. But he has never batted as long as he did in the first innings. It was the England physio, Dave Roberts, said, the sort of back problem you could suffer from wedding the garden.

Crawley ready to improve on A grade

Michael Henderson reports on the gifted young English batsman who has started to live up to expectations in South Africa

Does anyone, outside their circle of friends, now remember Peter Marinello or Andrew Kennedy? Sport has a capacity rivalled only by politics for raising public expectations of the young and talented, as John Crawley is discovering. As often as not the written-about fail to justify the claims made on their behalf.

Some never stand a chance. Marinello went to Arsenal as "the new George Best" and returned to Edinburgh a broken winger. Kennedy batted Lancashire through to win the 1975 Gillette Cup final with the ringing endorsement of a senior cricket correspondent: "He will play for England one day". He never came close.

Kennedy was the Young Cricketer of the Year that summer so the Cassandra of the press-box was not alone in his estimation. Since then the award has gone, *inter alia*, to Paul Parker, Robert Bailey, Ashley Metcalfe, James Whitaker and Richard Blakey, who have won eight Test caps between them. Mark Lathwell, last summer's choice, has regressed alarmingly on the A tour of South Africa.

Which leads to Crawley. If any player can forge another link to the chain of post-war English batsmanship which bonds May to Gooch by way of Cowdrey, Graveney and Dexter, it is this supremely gifted, right-hander, mature beyond his 22 years. If anyone can survive the bloated notices that attend a young man's progress it is he. Should he fulfil only four-fifths of his talent, like David Gower, cricket followers will be in his debt.

Few men of his age can admit being "a little bit disappointed" not to have played Test cricket by now and retain their modesty. His confidence, which could light up a small town, does not betoken arrogance. Nor does he regret the three years at Cambridge University which delayed his full-time career with Lancashire. In a world which is often exclusive and self-referential, he is his own man.

In South Africa he has looked what he is, a Test batsman in waiting: assured in defence and attack, patient, sculptured. One feels that when Crawley takes guard he is contemplating his 101st run, rather than his first. Others play their shots. He constructs an innings.

As an "aggregate man" he

does not brag about his 286 against moderate Eastern Province bowling. Picking up on something his Cambridge coach, Graham Saville, told him, he aims to make 100 runs in every first-class match. In ten completed innings in South Africa he has made 738 runs.

The most obvious impression is of his sheer strength. Where Michael Atherton, for instance, pushes balls to mid-off for none Crawley collects twos and threes from the same stroke. It is a refined power, not at all like Graeme Hick's or Robin Smith's, which is brutal.

Peter Lever, the coach at Old Trafford when the 13-year-old Crawley went there for nets, recalls telling the older lads "I don't want any messing around. Flick the ball up". After watching him bat for a few minutes Lever told them, "bowl as fast as you like". Coping with the short-pitched ball has never unnerved Crawley, which is why he is the only other batsman Atherton seriously considered taking to the West Indies.

Few Englishmen are so strong on the back foot. Saville and David Lloyd, the Lancashire coach, rank highest among his adult influences. Saville helped him come to terms with touring life as a member (and later captain) of the England Under-19 team. Lloyd he respects because "he knows that all players make mistakes; it's a matter of minimising the risk instead of eliminating the stroke".

The primary influence was his father, Frank, a decent club player in the Manchester Association whose business career with a Warrington chemicals company took precedence. Mark, one of his two brothers and four years older, captained Oxford University and now plays for Nottinghamshire.

He is "better mentally", he said, for his recent success. "I have learnt where I can usefully score most of my runs. I used to worry when people said I was strong on the leg side. Now it doesn't bother me in the slightest. I can play on the off side as well. It just happens that my leg side is stronger."

One would normally wish a young man on the brink of great achievement *bonne chance* in case he gets tossed about on the turbulent seas of public exposure. This man does not need sweet talk. He knows where he is going.



Crawley has enhanced his reputation with the England A team in South Africa. Photograph: Patrick Eagar

Australian success gives fitting send-off for Border

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THERE was a certain inevitability about Australia's triumph in the final of the World Series Cup at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday. It was, almost certainly, Allan Border's last international appearance at the ground, a noisy crowd of 40,000 had come to see him off and anything other than a defeat of South Africa in the third instalment of the three-match final would have rather spoiled the script. Border and Australia need not have worried; South Africa, battling under the SCG floodlights, suffered an early collapse and never looked capable of reaching their 224-run target.

The opening batsman, Peter Kirsten, trying to force a fast start, and the No 3, Hansie Cronje, were both run out as South Africa stumbled to 26 for three. They never recovered and fell short by 35 runs, making 188 for nine off 164.30 overs. It was left to Border, 38, to bowl a symbolic final over and receive a standing ovation from the crowd as he received the trophy.

Border said: "First and foremost, I'm looking forward to a strong performance by the team in Adelaide [in the third Test match against South Africa] and of course to the tour of South Africa. Any further talk of retirement can wait until after that." He added that he would accept an offer from the Australian Cricket Board to become a management officer for the board.

AUSTRALIA
D C Boon c Rhodes b de Villiers 64
M Hayden c Richardson b Rundle 20
D M Jones c Rundle b Donald 25
M E Waugh not out 60
S R Waugh not out 17
A R Border b de Villiers 38
J A Healy run out 0
P R Reifel run out 0
S K Warne not out 1
Extras (b 3, w 0) 228
Total 60 wickets, 228 (over)

SOUTH AFRICA
P N Kirsten run out 14
G Kirsten c M Waugh b Reifel 10
W J Cronje not out 10
J N Rhodes c Healy b Warne 43
E L R Stewart b Warne 13
D J Cullinan c Healy b McDermott 33
Y O J Richardson not out 38
J A Healy run out 0
D B Rundle b de Villiers 6
D B Rundle b de Villiers 15
A C McDonald not out 0
Extras (b 1, w 3) 8
Total 60 wickets, 228 (over)

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-112, 3-114, 4-188, 5-218, 6-228, 7-228, 8-228.
BOWLING: de Villiers 10-1-42-1; de Villiers 10-2-41-2; Smith 10-1-34-0; Cronje 10-0-35-1; Rundle 7-0-52-1; Cullinan 3-0-17-0.

□ Anil Kumble promises to be the key figure when India meet Sri Lanka in the countries' second Test in Bangalore today. The leg spinner, 22, who claimed 11 wickets in the first Test in Lucknow last week before suffering a bleeding nose and heat exhaustion, was yesterday declared fit to play. Sri Lanka slumped to an innings defeat in Lucknow.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 46

DACTYLOGRAM

(b) Finger-speech (or a finger-print), a symbol of dactylography, the art of speaking or communicating ideas by signs made with the fingers, as in the deaf-and-dumb language, from the Greek *daktylos* a finger (or toe) + *gramma* a letter.

EFFENDI

(c) A Turkish title of respect, chiefly applied to government officials and to members of the learned professions, from the Turkish *efendi*, a corruption of the Greek *authentes* lord, master.

TEWTAW

(d) An implement for breaking hemp or flax, if the noun came first, its derivation probably comes from that which *taw* or *breaks the tow*; Johnson knew only the verb *tewtaw*, which he took to be a reduplicated form of *taw*. "As to the working of it, you must provide your Brakes and Tawtaws both, the brake which bruises and toughens the hark, and the tawtaw that cuts and divides out the coars."

UMSET

(b) To surround or invest, from the prefix *um-* + *set*, OE *ymbsettan*, cf. MDut *omsetten*; the *Flodden* Field ballad, 1600: "Sir Rice! Came with a fierce menyce, / He bent his bowes on the bent to abyde, / And cleane umset the gallow-tree."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

The innocuous looking 1... a4? is actually crushing. If White allows 2... axb3, Black gains a winning passed pawn. However, 2 bxc4 walks into 2... Rxc4! 3 Rxc4 Nxc3+ winning a piece.

Schwer faces local rival

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

BILLY Schwer makes a voluntary defence of his British and Commonwealth lightweight titles against his local rival, Sean Murphy. The champion is from Luton, the challenger from St Albans, and they meet in Stevenage on February 16.

However long the bout lasts, it will be explosive, and a full house of 3,000 is expected at the Ice Bowl. Even Dave Charlney, one of Britain's greatest lightweight boxers, who has not seen a boxing match live or on television for ten years, will be there.

Murphy, who has lost four out of 26 contests as a featherweight (9st), is moving up two weights, to 9st 9lb, because he finds it too difficult to make feather-weight and super-feather (9st 4lb). He realises that at the heavier weight he

will have to rely more on finesse more than brawling. But the 29-year-old Murphy's yesterday by a spokesman for the prosecutor's office, who said no such agreement would ever be considered. Tyson, the former undisputed heavy-weight champion, was convicted of raping a beauty contestant in an Indianapolis hotel room in 1991. He is serving a six-year sentence at the Indiana Youth Center.

WTHR-TV of Indianapolis reported on Monday night that Tyson would admit the crime in return for the prosecutors agreeing to cut his sentence to time served. Both sides may favour such a deal to avoid a forthcoming hearing in an appeal court on whether the prosecutor's office withheld evidence.

A television station's report

Thomson moves outdoors

By DAVID RYAN JONES

ANDY Thomson, who has won a record number of English indoor bowls championships, including three successive singles titles between 1989 and 1991, will not be competing in the Manchester Unity national championships at Melton Mowbray in April.

England's most successful player has instead accepted an invitation to play in the Mazda International Classic at Tweedheads in Australia from April 13 to 17, highlighting what Peter Brimble, the England indoor team manager, yesterday condemned as a lack of liaison between the sports indoor and outdoor authorities.

"I find it disturbing, as much for Andy as anyone else," Brimble said. "They

tried to avoid clashes at world championship and home international level, but the national championships seem to come a poor third."

However, the World Bowls Board (Outdoor) secretary, David Johnson, said: "There is now much more cooperation between the WBB and the World Indoor Bowls Council than ever before. With the best will in the world, we can't prevent some clashes occurring — and when they do, we can't tell the players which event to choose. It must be for them to decide where their duty lies."

Thomson said yesterday: "I'm still going in singles, pairs, and fours, so it's very disappointing. Realistically, I'll have the chance to play in the nationals for the next 20

years, but the Mazda is one of the world's best tournaments, and an invitation like this one does not come every day." He has already decided to concede his area singles semi-final tie.

THE TIMES

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England's wait goes on as Venables bargains

STILL England waits, still the new manager of the national side could be Terry Venables, or it could be an as-yet-unnamed caretaker. Venables, the chosen candidate, spent all day bartering with the FA over terms and conditions yesterday and an FA spokesman said late in the evening: "There will be no press conference tomorrow but we hope to have the matter resolved by the end of the week."

Apart from that and an earlier "discussions are continuing" statement, the FA observed a public silence on what is an appointment of more interest to the public than the outcry over the Leeds supporters who ruined the

tribute to Sir Matt Busby on Sunday.

What can be the problem? Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the FA, has talked of "one or two loose ends". Venables had begun the week by declaring his impatience and frustration, saying: "The FA know my commitment to the job, they know I want it."

Those loose ends could be turning into an insoluble knot. The leaks from within the FA, given some credence by Kelly himself, have suggested that while Venables is the only full-time appointment the selection sub-committee has in mind, the FA wants "get out" clauses to indemnify it against the prospect of becoming em-



Rob Hughes reports on a day of negotiations between the FA and the man who would be manager

broiled in legal proceedings resulting from Venables's business life, or from any possibility that the FA's partner, the Premier League, might yet find Venables was responsible for misdemeanours when he was chief executive at Tottenham Hotspur. The Premier League enquiry into Tottenham is expected to hand over its findings to the FA no sooner than next week.

Meanwhile, administrators

at Lancaster Gate have begun making courtesy calls to the 89 members of the Football Association Council, including calls to colonial members in New Zealand and Canada. These calls, presumably, give the good news that the sub-committee is talking to its man and the bad news that he is driving a hard bargain.

It may not only concern fiscal matters here. Throughout the interminable saga, the FA has let it be known that

Venables would have to divest himself of the company of the financial adviser, Eddie Ashby, and of his close friend, the players' agent, Eric Hall. Venables would not be human and his lawyer would not be dutiful if they did not seek to lift some of the restrictions proposed or at least to ensure a public front that appears less demeaning to Venables.

The contract, which is agreed, would initially run until after the 1996 European Championship in England, the first competitive football team will play. The terms of that contract have not been publicly discussed but, not surprisingly, Venables would want remuneration worthy of

off-setting, at least to some extent, the substantial damages he is advised he might collect if he were to win his proposed libel action against the BBC programme, *Panorama*.

The FA would be embarrassed if this action were to go ahead. On one hand, it would consume the time of its manager, on the other, it would involve the highest profile employee in football in a potentially ugly court proceeding.

Furthermore, the FA is accepting the word of Venables and his legal representative that he is guiltless of fraud, allegations not merely

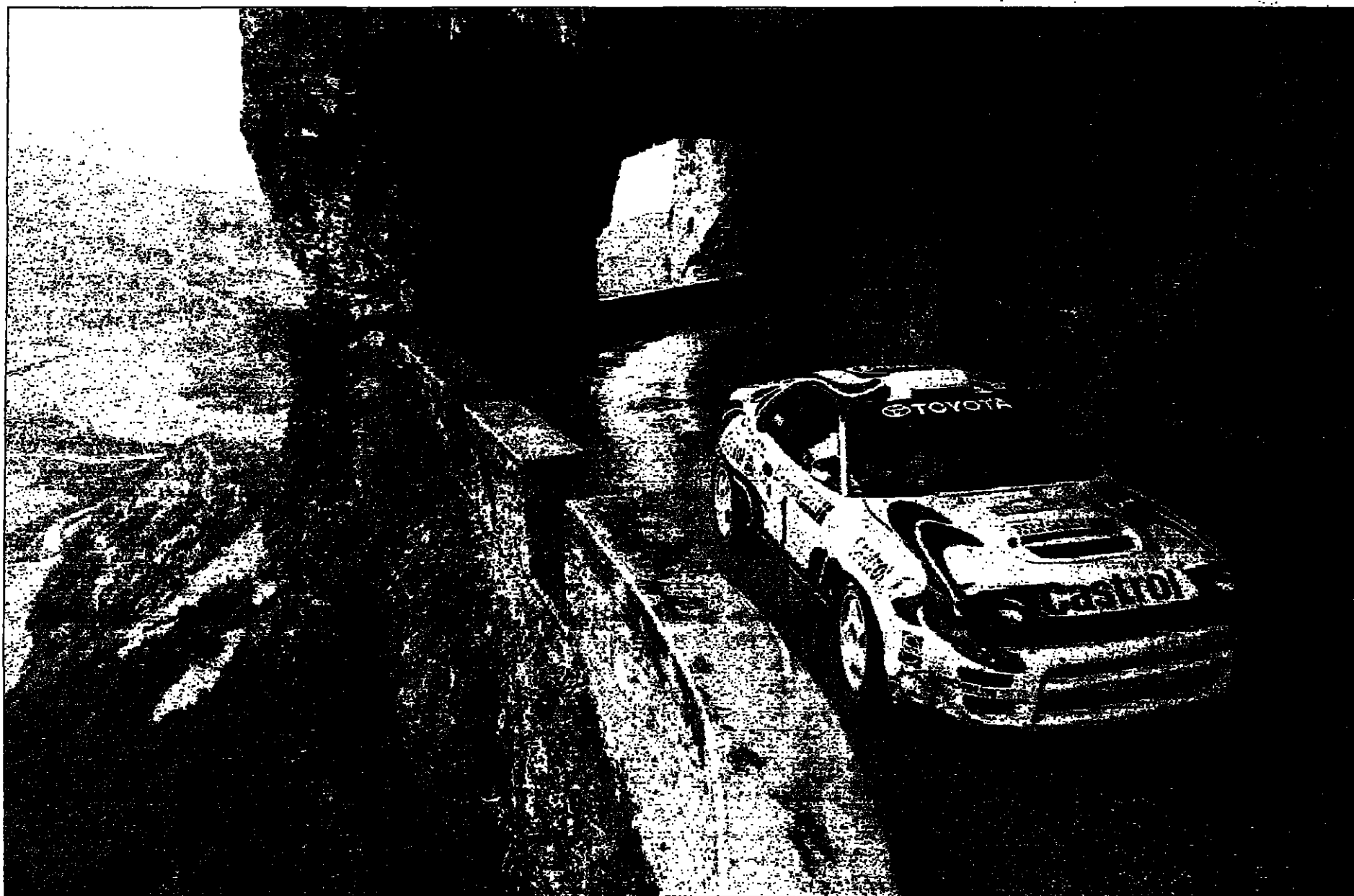
made by *Panorama* but reiterated in the *Financial Times* ten days ago.

There also appears to be a footballing matter that could divide the aspirations of Venables and the FA. Most professional managers and coaches in the country concur that the England job would be best served by a complete change in direction of the FA coaching structure. To put it bluntly, there is hardly a credible voice left among the clubs prepared to support the long-held game advocated by the FA director of coaching, Charles Hughes.

If Venables is to be named coach rather than manager of England, surely his differ-

ences in style and philosophy with Hughes need airing. And one would have expected that the England manager would at the very least be consulted on the successor to Hughes. Instead, it is understood the FA will discuss the structure after appointing Venables and that Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, might be approached to become the coaching overlord. The cautious mind of Wilkinson is distant from the cavalier instincts of Venables. They might, in philosophical terms, be poles apart. And for that reason, as well as wrangling over loose ends, the FA might yet be offering Terry Venables a contract he can only refuse.

Drivers brave wet and icy roads in Monte Carlo rally



Juha Kankunen, of Finland, tackles a mountain pass during the eighth stage of the Monte Carlo rally yesterday. Kankunen remains in second place in his Toyota, 44 seconds behind François Delacour, of France, in a Ford Escort, who won five of the six stages. Positions, page 44. Photograph: Robert Pratt.

Atherton slips in second innings

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, IN ST JOHN'S, ANTIGUA

MIKE Atherton missed a chance to gain valuable batting practice at the start of the England second innings against Antigua XI in St John's yesterday. After scoring a century in the first innings, the England captain was caught at backward square leg for eight just before tea on the third day. He had been dropped in the same position a few minutes earlier and was rightly angry with himself for repeating his mistake.

By tea, England had reached 13 for one, a lead of 72 with nine wickets standing after the home side had been bowled out for 360, 59 behind England's total. Andy Caddick, the Somerset fast bowler, taking five for 106.

For the second day, Steve Watkin, 29, of Glamorgan, was unable to bowl because of a back injury, sustained during his innings of 45 on the second morning.

"It is the sort of injury I see every Monday morning in my clinic from weekend gardening, pulling up the weeds," Dave Roberts, the England physio, explained. "It's not serious, but, at this early stage of the tour, I would prefer to be sensible rather than take risks. He should be fit to bowl soon. My medical record on Watkin after three A team tours is a blank piece of paper."

Watkin himself could at least see the funny side of his unexpected back strain. "I've never been injured bowling," he said. "I suppose I might have expected to be injured batting in some way on this

tour, but not in my back. The injury was caused by bending over my bat. I doubt if I've ever batted for longer in my career, but I should be able to play in the next couple of days."

Alec Stewart, who strained a hamstring during his century on the opening day, was also advised to rest further, though he felt he would have played if it had been a Test match. With only two opening batsmen in



Watkin: back injury

the England party, Graham Thorpe, a team-mate of Stewart's at Surrey, who failed in the first innings, opened with Atherton in the second. Hick coming in at No 3, a position he may be asked to fill for the Test series. Hick immediately enjoyed a slice of luck as the first ball he faced trickled inches past his leg stump.

Caribbean culture, page 46
Batsman in waiting, page 46

Celtic chase Fleck as rebel Creaney joins Portsmouth

BY KEVIN MCCARRA



Fleck: unconvincing

CELTIC have made a £750,000 bid for the Chelsea striker, Robert Fleck. The Glasgow club raised the bulk of the money by selling one of its forwards, Gerry Creaney, to Portsmouth yesterday for £500,000. Creaney could make his debut in the Coca-Cola Cup tie against Manchester United at Fratton Park tonight.

Although Chelsea paid Norwich City £2.1 million for Fleck, a Scotland international, in 1992, they could have little option but to accept Celtic's offer. His form slumped at Stamford Bridge and the 28-year-old, who recently had a loan spell at first division Bolton, scored only three goals. Given that he began his career with Rangers, however, it is not merely Fleck's effective-

ness that will be questioned in Glasgow.

While an Ibrox player, he dropped his shorts in front of Celtic supporters in a reserve match. He may now have to bare his soul to them in a convincing manner before there is any forgiveness. Nonetheless, others before him have served both sides of the Old Firm, notably Alfie Conn and Maurice Johnston.

Celtic do need to revitalise their forward line. Saturday's 0-0 draw with Dundee United, in which they failed to convert abundant pressure into goals, typified the problem. Creaney, a former under-21 international, has been a regular scorer in the past but has looked out of touch while engaged in recent contractual disputes.

The 23-year-old refused to accept the

terms proposed by the Celtic manager, Lou Macari, and his predecessor, Liam Brady. Everton took Creaney on loan for two days last week but while they deliberated, Jim Smith, of Portsmouth, has moved in.

Macari has frequently pleaded for more money but, even in its absence, has begun to reshape the Celtic squad. Since his appointment in October he has bought Wayne Biggins, Carl Maggionie and Lee Martin. If Fleck now arrives, however, he will not be eligible for the Scottish Cup tie against Motherwell on Saturday. The third-round signing deadline has passed.

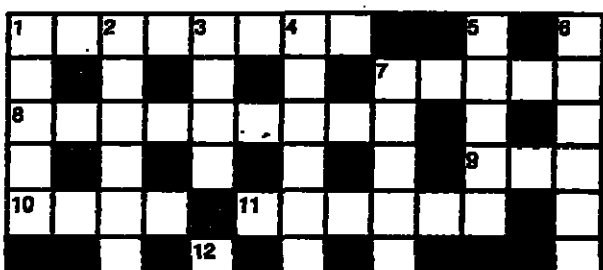
Terry Yorath's hopes of being reappointed manager of Wales suffered a temporary setback yesterday. The Football Association of Wales (FAW) postponed the planned meet-

ings of the senior international and finance committees after the chief executive, Alyn Evans, suffered a migraine attack and was unable to attend.

It had been expected that the FAW meetings—rescheduled for tomorrow—would have agreed on a new manager, with Yorath the favourite to be reappointed. Yorath took Wales to within one match of qualification for the World Cup finals last year, but his contract was not renewed when it expired on December 31.

The former England captain, Bryan Robson, will enter hospital tomorrow for an operation on his troublesome sinuses, which will keep him out of action for at least another week.

The management, page 44

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 72

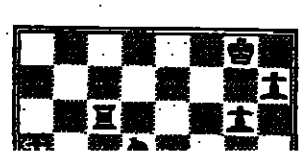
ACROSS

- 1 Raining very lightly (8)
7 Visual representation (5)
8 Twin-hull craft (9)

DOWN

- 1 Black Sea resort (5)
2 Crying (2,5)
3 Big (unreadable) book (4)

Today's problem is from the game Rogers - Gurevich, Hastings Premier 1993. This endgame looks fairly harmless, but

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